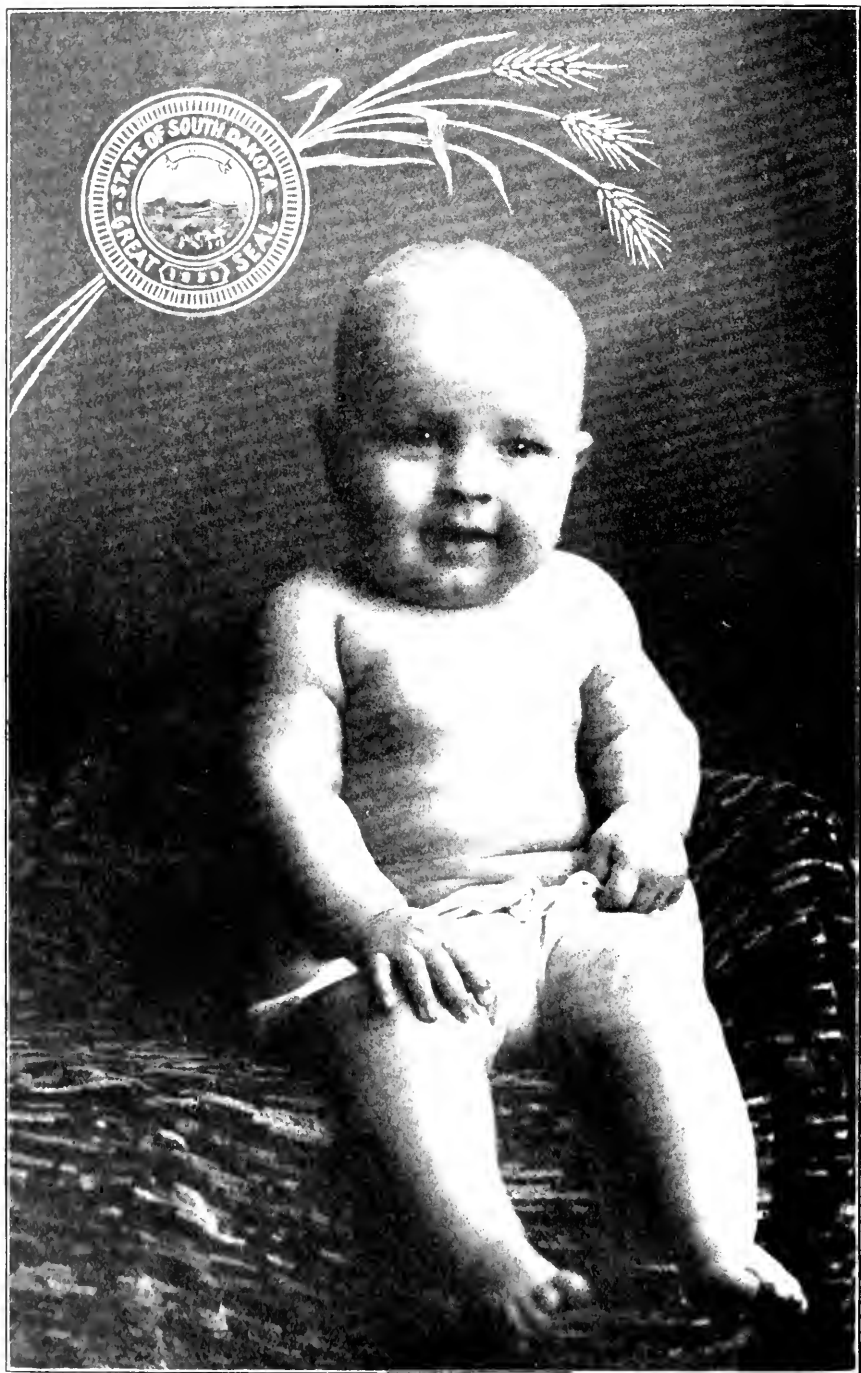


GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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A HISTORY
OF
JERAULD COUNTY
SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY N. J. DUNHAM.

FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT
TO JANUARY 1ST, 1909.

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SO. DAK.
1910.

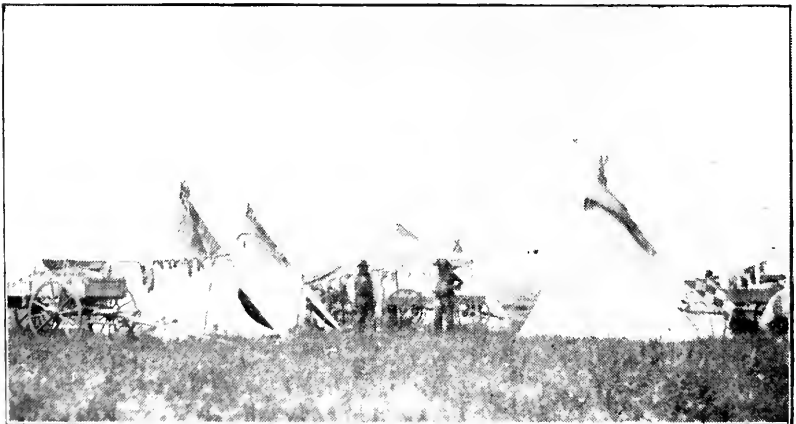
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A FOREWORD.

In presenting to our readers this history of Jerauld County we are undertaking a rather large task. There is so little of record and so much of legend that it is hard to separate the wheat from the chaff. However, we have carefully sifted the legends as received and have selected what seemed to be accurate. Of the later history, of course, records disclose the facts and that has been less difficult to gather.



The First Inhabitant.



The Second Inhabitant.

PART ONE.

Chapter 1.

The story of the country embraced within the limits of Jerauld county, prior to the removal of the Indians to their reservations in 1859, is almost legendary. Even the man for whom was named the range of hills that run north and south thru the center of the county, is only known to have been a trapper who frequented the lakes and streams in this part of the great territory prior to 1863.

Of him it is related, that he in company with some other trappers was engaged in his usual avocation along the Firesteel and Sand Creeks at the time of the Indian uprising at New Ulm, Minnesota, in 1863. The whole western country was then swarming with hostile bodies of Sioux. As these bands were driven westward by the soldiers from Minnesota, the trappers were caught in the line of retreat taken by the savages. Wessington and his companions took refuge in the grove near the big spring. For several days the trappers fought off their enemies, but provisions and ammunition failing, they attempted to break through and escape. One by one they fell, selling their lives as dearly as possible. Wessington was the last of the number. He was wounded and captured. Taking him back to the grove where he and his friends had made such a gallant fight, the Indians tied him to a tree and put him to death by torture. The story of his capture and death was told by the Indians. Various trees about the spring have been pointed out in later years as the spot where the trapper met his death.

Among the soldiers who followed the Indians in their retreat through the hills and camped by the big spring, were Chas. Davis and Richard Butler, both in later years, residents of Alpena.

This was the last of the Indian raids in the country between the Missouri and James rivers. During the next fifteen years the Sand Creek and Firesteel valleys and the Wessington Hills were mainly occupied by peaceful Indians and trappers, and horse thieves and wild buffalo.

In 1876 two squatters named Hain and Nicholson settled at the foot of the hills. Hain laid claim to the northeast quarter of section 13, township 107, R. 65, the land upon which the big spring is located. On the bank of the little stream that flows from the spring and protected by the

trees that grew up from the ravine, he built a sod hut and later added to it a building made of logs, which for many years stood as a landmark of the county.

Nicholson selected his location about four miles north of Hain, at the entrance of a deep gulch afterwards embraced in the farm owned by H. J. Wallace.

These men made no attempt to cultivate the land further than a small garden patch. Their means of living was mainly a matter of conjecture.

In 1874 a scout with Custer's soldiers in the Black Hills washed a pan of gravel taken from the bottom of French Creek. The result was a find of marvelous richness. Custer sent a dispatch to army headquarters announcing the discovery of gold in the hill country.

This untimely message was unwisely published to the world. Immediately a stream of excited gold seekers started for the new Eldorado. They went by teams, on foot and on horseback, only to find the country of gold guarded by troops who stopped the eager prospectors and turned them back.

The disappointed gold seekers returning to their homes told of the mighty expanse of fertile prairies that must be crossed before the gold country could be entered. The description of the country that had been marked upon the maps as the Great American Desert, fired the ambition of the young men of the east to obtain homes and try their fortunes in farming and stock raising in the upper Missouri valley.

The craze for gold changed to a craze for land. The government land laws permitted every head of a family, or single person, male or female, to obtain 480 acres of her most fertile soil on the continent.

In 1876 Sioux Falls was a town of but few scattered buildings and less than five hundred inhabitants. In less than five years a dozen towns of a thousand or more people had sprung up in the valleys of the Big Sioux and James rivers.

At no time since the gold fever of '49 took so many people across the plains to California, has the nation beheld such a movement from an old to a new country.

Some officials of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad in crossing the prairies to lay out a line of transportation to the Black Hills gold region, saw the opportunity for developing an empire and at the same time insuring an inexhaustable source of revenue to the railroad that should push its lines across these fertile prairies. A report to the directors resulted in an order to extend the system westward.

The C. M. & St. P. immediately followed the example of the Northwestern and hundreds of miles of railroad were built across a country that had never known a settler.



Scene in Bateman Gulch.

Immigrants by thousands and tens of thousands followed close after the locomotive and began the business of getting land. Some, more venturesome and hardy than others, pushed on ahead of the roads and took land far from the towns or settlements.

Chapter 2.

Two years after Levi Hain settled by the big spring three brothers, Moses, Peter and Ogden Barrett, came out from Minnesota and settled at the mouth of what is known as Barrett's Gulch. Peter Barrett filed on land in section one 107-65 on the 23rd day of May, 1878, while Moses Barrett at the same time made a homestead entry for 160 acres in sections 11 and 12 of the same township. Ogden Barrett had made a timber culture entry for a quarter section in section 6—107—64 and he began to make improvements on that date.

The Barretts were men who enjoyed the wide range and the free life of the frontier. Their new homes were over a hundred miles from the nearest settlement, while the only means of regular communication with the rest of mankind was the Yankton-Ft. Thompson mail line which passed over the old Ft. Thompson trail every two weeks. A post-office, named Wessington, with P. R. Barrett as postmaster was established in 1878 and was supplied by this route. The lumber that was used in the construction of Peter Barrett's claim shanty was brought with teams from Beaver Creek, Minnesota.

The next spring, 1879, a man named W. H. Stearns bought the squatters right of Levi Hain to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 13—107—65, and moved into the log house. Hain moved about three-quarters of a mile north and built another log house, which afterwards became the first public school house in the territory now embraced within the limits of the city of Wessington Springs. In this house Hain lived until he moved into Hand county about two years later.

The next settler in the vicinity of Wessington Springs was John McCarter, who filed a homestead entry on the SW of 29—107—64, two miles south of the present city. About the same time a man named Strong filed on a claim in section 17—107—64. In the succeeding fall a Mr. Tucker settled in the vicinity of McCarter and Strong.

In the north part of the county Paddock Steves, Chas. Williams, M. J. Thornton and J. A. Palmer settled among the foot hills in 108—65.

Emergencies arise in the lives of pioneers that call for heroic action. No matter how carefully plans are laid, something will be overlooked, or some accident happen that brings about the unexpected. This happened to M. J. Thornton in February, 1880. His team was not in condition to drive and he was wholly without means of conveyance. In this condition the supply of flour for the family became exhausted. The nearest point at which flour could be obtained was the village of Mitchell, fifty miles away. It must be procured and he must get it. The winter had been mild and the prairie was free from snow. Bidding his family good bye, Thornton set out on foot to bring a sack of the much needed article from the distant station. It was a long walk but he arrived at Mitchell on the evening of the day he left home. He remained over night and the next morning obtained the flour and, carrying it on his shoulder, began his long journey to the Wessington Hills.

It was not hard walking for the ground was frozen and the few streams he crossed on the ice. He followed the trail over which the mail was carried and had no difficulty until darkness came on. The prairie had been overrun by fires and was a great unbroken stretch of utter blackness. As night came the sky became cloudy shutting off even the faint starlight. The moon would not rise until near morning, and Thornton soon found himself trudging on in a darkness so intense that the burned prairie upon which he was walking could not be seen. The trail he had been following became invisible and he lost it. A light wind was blowing from the northwest and trusting that it had not changed he walked straight into it and kept on. There was not a habitation of any kind between Mitchell and the Wessington Hills. After walking for what seemed hours he ascended a small elevation and caught a glimmer of a light that appeared to be miles away to the left. He had not yet crossed the Firesteel Creek and he knew the light must be a long way off.

He turned his steps in the direction of the light and soon felt himself descending into what he rightly thought to be the bed of the creek. Guided by the wind he kept on until about ten o'clock when he reached the light which proved to be from the home of John McCarter. He stayed with the settler until morning and then continued his course north along the foot hills, reaching home, tired but otherwise all right.

In the spring of 1879 the mail service was changed so as to make Wessington the terminal of the line from Yankton, another route beginning there and going on to Ft. Thompon. The time was altered so as to require the trips on both lines to be made twice a week.

As the mail in those days contained but few papers, and the letters

were not numerous it was carried from Wessington to Ft. Thompson on horseback.

In the summer of 1879 Chas. Williams, one of the four settlers in 108—65, began carrying the mail from Wessington (Barrett's residence) to the Missouri river and back, making the trips according to the new schedule. The distance from Wessington to Ft. Thompson was forty-five miles and, as there was not a settler between the two stations, the trip must be made in one day or the rider would have to pass a night on the open prairie. In the warm weather a bivouac under the stars was no hardship, but in the winter time the experience was not at all desirable.

A few days after Thornton made his trip to Mitchell for flour, Charles Williams started on his return trip from Ft. Thompson, Feb. 26, 1880, carrying the few letters and dispatches sent out by the people at the fort. The trail was a mere path, traveled by no one but the mail carrier. The day was mild and Williams was having a pleasant ride. He had crossed Elm Creek and had covered about half the distance to Barrett's place when one of those terrible winter storms that occur at rare intervals on the prairies west of the great lakes, struck him with scarcely a moment's notice. The fine snow filled the air so completely as to be almost suffocating. It was mid-day, but in the blinding snow the path was as invisible as in the darkest midnight. The trail was soon lost and after searching in vain to recover it Williams turned west in the hope of being able to reach the thicket of small trees that skirted the banks of Elm Creek, which he knew were but a few miles distant. He dismounted and led the pony, facing the furious wind and plunging through the snow drifts that formed with incredible rapidity. All the afternoon and all night he led his horse about, searching for the shelter of the thickets. The next forenoon he reached the creek and a small grove of trees. He gathered some dry twigs and attempted to make a fire. The few matches he found in his pocket were damp and one by one he saw them fizzle and die. Then he lost hope. The storm continued with all its fury and dropping the bridle rein he sat down to what he believed would be his last rest. How long he sat there he did not know, but was finally aroused by his horse tipping him over while trying to free its nose from icicles. Williams then got upon his feet and began wandering along the creek bed to keep alive until the storm should cease. Along the creek bottom he was protected somewhat from the fury of the wind, but unfortunately he fell into a pool of water that had not been frozen. He held up his feet and poured the water from his boots as much as possible and continued his combat with the storm. So for sixty hours the contest went on. At last the storm abated, the sun came out



Levi Hain's Log House.



The Big Spring, where Wessington was burned by the Indians.

and although the weather was 30 degrees below zero he made his way, now walking, now crawling, now rolling over and over across the deep gulleys filled with snow, to keep from sinking to a depth from which he could not get out, he finally reached an Indian camp, from which he was taken to the fort. His feet were so badly frozen that both were amputated. Williams became a traveling peddler, wandering over most of the United States.

Chapter 3.

The spring of 1880 found the little band of settlers at the foot of the hills all in good health. They were somewhat curious as to the movements of strange men, who mysteriously came, were seen about the hills for a few days and then as mysteriously disappeared. There were rumours of the existence of an organization of horse thieves and cattle rustlers that extended from below Sioux City to far up the Missouri river, with a station somewhere in the hills. It was hinted that a depot or stable existed in the Nicholson gulch, but if so it was so well hidden that none of the settlers chanced to find it. So far no one had been disturbed in their possessions and the settlers were content to let the mysteries of the hills remain unsolved.

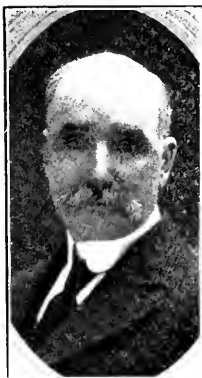
The late snow melted and the warm spring rains started the vegetation and the prairies that had been black from the fires that had overrun them, began to take on the brightest green, that extended unbroken as far as the eye could reach. From the high points of the hills a person with a good field glass could get a view of the great plain from Huron to Mitchell without seeing a human habitation, excepting the few shanties close to the range of hills.

The showers continued until the latter part of May and then ceased. By the middle of June the grass was evidently needing rain. By the first of July the prairie was taking on a dead-grass color and the vegetation was shrinking and dying. One day in the fore part of July, when a strong north wind was blowing, a fire was started among the hills away to the north. As it advanced the stretch of flame extended east and west. The wind increased as the fire moved forward. With no streams nor lakes, nor broken prairie to hinder its progress a mighty billow of flame swept past the little settlement leaving only blackness where the beautiful green had been but a few weeks before.

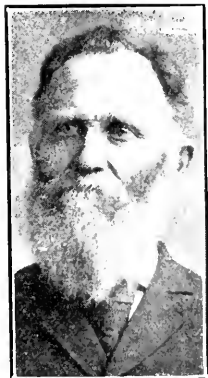
None of the settlers lost anything by the fire, except the grazing for



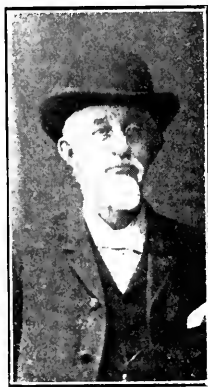
Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Barrett.



Hudson Horsley.



L. G. Wilson.



Rob't S. Bateman.



Mr. and Mrs. Bromwell Horsley.



George Wallace.



Daniel Kint.

their animals. In the ravines among the hills the grass sprang up again in a short time, and although the cattle and horses were on short rations for a day or two they soon were able to obtain abundance.

Some rain came after the fire and by the middle of August the settlers could go into the draws and put up sufficient hay to last them through the winter.

During the summer of 1880 a number of prospective settlers visited the country in the vicinity of the springs and along the foot hills.

W. N. Hill came out from Minnesota and put up a few stacks of hay and was followed by Hudson Horsly and his brother Bromwell. The latter stayed, but Hill went back to spend the winter. C. M. Chery came in the fall and took up his residence on the NE of 20 in 108—65, though he spent the winter with P. R. Barrett.

Andrew Solberg filed on the NW of 14 in 107—64, and his son, Ole C. Solberg took a pre-emption and tree claim in section one of 106—64, where he lived during the winter. This was the first settlement in what is now Viola township.

During the winter of 1880 Mr. Stearns being away, Andrew J. Solberg lived in the log house near the big spring.

Among the people who visited the hills in the fall of 1880 were J. W. Thomas, Rev. A. B. Smart and D. W. Shryock, who selected land.

Though far removed as the settlers by the hills were from the towns and villages, yet they were not wholly deprived of the comforts of civilization. On the 9th day of May, 1880, Rev. Chapin, a Presbyterian missionary, held religious services at the residence of Peter Barrett and preached the first sermon ever addressed to an audience in the limits of the county. After the church services were concluded a Sunday school was organized and became a regular feature of Sabbath observance through the summer and fall until October, when, because of the severity of the weather and the scattered condition of the settlement, it was discontinued for the winter.

During the fall several unaccountable things occurred to annoy the settlers. A few animals mysteriously disappeared and no traces of them could be found. The homes were too widely scattered and too few in number to render available and concerted action. They had their suspicions, but could prove nothing and the law and courts were too far away to afford them any relief even though the evidence could have been produced. They were attached to Hanson county for judicial purposes and there were no magistrates or police officers nearer than Mitchell. They suffered their losses as best they could, making no complaint except to each other. The houses of Strong, McCarter and Tucker were all

burned while the owners were away and under circumstances that made it impossible for the fires to have been accidental.

Strong and Tucker abandoned their land and went away, but McCarter built another residence and prepared to stay through the winter. A man named Stephen Smith had settled near the Springs, and one morning a fine colt he had brought with him was missing and never returned.

In 108—65 the shanties of Paddock Steves and J. A. Palmer were broken open and robbed while the proprietors were away from home for a night. Palmer's shanty was torn down and the boards scattered about over the prairie.

Hudson Horsley had a fat cow among his animals that would have afforded a good supply of meat for his family during the winter. Shortly after the winter set in the cow was missing and was never heard of after. One night a span of horses disappeared from P. R. Barrett's stable and all search for them proved fruitless.

The mysterious strangers continued to come and go, but who and what they were, or what was their mission was only a matter of surmise.

Joe Black, a young man who had come out with Hudson Horsley, took the job of carrying the mail between Wessington (Barrett's place) and Mitchell, and made the trips without molestation two times each week.

The winter of 1880—81 was one of exceptional severity, not only on the plains, but throughout all of the middle west. Snow began to fall in October and continued on the ground, with an occasional light fall, until in February, when a heavy snow fall commenced that lasted a week without interruption. When at last the storm ceased and the sun came out the snow was five feet deep on the level.

During the severe weather the settlers were annoyed but little by the desperadoes. The timber in the gulches afforded plenty of fuel, so there was no occasion to make long trips away from home. The deep snow that kept the settlers at home, also prevented the horse thieves and rustlers from moving about without leaving a trail that could be easily followed. So the winter passed quietly at the homes by the hills, the greatest hardship being the loneliness of their isolated locations.

Chapter 4.

With the year 1881 began the immigration to Dakota Territory that culminated in the mighty rush two years later. Some who had been here in 1880 prospecting, came back in 1881 with other prospectors, who "filed" and wrote, or carried back to their friends such favorable reports that more came. The melting of the deep snows filled the draws and lake beds that were dry the previous year, full to overflowing. The spring rains were heavy and frequent, and were followed by abundance of moisture throughout the year. The "sod" crops that were planted grew prodigiously. All who came were greatly pleased with Uncle Sam's farms that he was giving away to all who would take.

With the return of warm weather Mr. Solberg went back to his claim on section 14. Solberg's shanty was a decidedly primitive dwelling. It consisted of four short stakes driven into the ground, one at each corner of the structure, and a tall one in the center. Brush, brought from a gulch in the hills, was stood up about the center stake leaving a small room underneath in which one could stay at night comfortably in warm weather, but the extreme rigor of the winter of 1880-81 had rendered it uninhabitable. Mr. Solberg then took up his abode in the log cabin by the big spring. With the return of warm weather, however, he was able to again take up his residence on his government land.

Mr. Stearns on the 30th of April, 1881, made proof and obtained his final receipt. That was probably the first "proof" made in what is now Jerauld county. The receipt was filed for record in the office of the register of deeds of Hanson county. On the 3rd day of June, 1881, Mr. Stearns sold the land to Dr. C. S. Burr, of Mitchell, and that deed, also, was recorded in Hanson county. The consideration for this transfer was \$1,000.

During the summer of 1881 several men came to Aurora county and took up their abode north of township 105 who, though they did not become men of great wealth, yet had much to do with the development in many ways of the county subsequently created.

In May of that year two men left the train at Mitchell and tried to get a ride on to the end of the road at Mt. Vernon. The passenger train was going no further than Mitchell and they were finally offered a ride by the section boss if they would help "pump" the hand car.

They threw their grips on this western "limited" and began to literally work their passage. Arrived at Mt. Vernon they took their grips from the hand car and set out on foot for the Wessington Hills, the outline of which could be seen lying low on the horizon in the northwest.

One of these men was Almona B. Smart, afterward a first com-

missioner of two counties; the other, Alden Brown, subsequently the first county superintendent of Aurora county.

The next day after leaving the hand car at Mt. Vernon they reached the hills where Mr. Smart had taken some land in the east half of section 12—107—65, on the occasion of his visit in the fall before and Mr. Brown made a settlement on the NW quarter of section 6—107—64.

C. W. Hill and his son, Wm. N. Hill, came on from Minnesota and settled in 108—65, C. W. Hill in June buying a relinquishment from Paddock Steves to the latter's claim in section 22. George Wallace purchased the squatter's right of Nicholson and settled on the east half of section 17 in 108—65, while Russells and Eagles settled across the line in 108—64.

C. D. Brown moved his family on the NE of section 31—108—64, being the first family domiciled in that township.

A minister named J. W. P. Jordan, father-in-law of A. B. Smart, settled on a claim a mile east of the big spring in May, 1881, and was soon followed by J. W. Thomas and D. W. Shryock, who settled on the land selected by them the preceding autumn. About the same time C. W. P. Osgood, Hiram Blowers and R. S. Bateman and his son, William, joined the settlers near the hills.

On the 14th day of May of that year, John Grant made filing for a half section of land, the east half of 19, in town, 107—64, and was followed a few months later by his brother, Newell Grant. The two Grants became residents immediately after making entry at the Mitchell land office.

About the same time Charles Walters settled on the NE. of the NW. of sec. 22 in 106—64, and the next year became a permanent resident.

On Sept. 7 L. G. Wilson established his residence on the SW quarter of 25 in 106—64 and the next day made a homestead entry for the SE quarter of the same section.

One day in November, 1881, another man arrived at the settlement about the Springs, who afterward became prominent in the affairs of the county, spent the night with A. B. Smart and the next morning before sunrise climbed to the top of the hills and took a long earnest look over the James River Valley, glistening white in the autumnal frost. He was captivated by the beauty of the landscape. Except the few dwellings near the hills not a thing could be seen as far as the eye could reach denoting the presence of a human being. The white carpet, the blue sky, the rising sun and the invigorating air fixed in his mind the determination to make these prairies his future home. That day he drove to Mitchell and on the 6th day of November, 1881, P. H. Shultz made the 6th entry for public land in township 106—64.

All the settlements mentioned thus far were in what was then Aurora county, which, for all purposes of county government was dependent upon Hanson county officials. An earnest effort was then on foot in certain quarters to wipe Davison county off the map and attach the western part of it to Aurora county. Davison county had been organized and was provided with a full set of officials.

The settlers in Aurora county, therefore, were in the anomalous position of having a fully organized county between them and the official home of the courts and constabulary to which they must appeal for legal protection. All deeds and mortgages must be recorded in Hanson county, books and court mandates had to come from Hanson county magistrates.

Under such circumstances the political and judicial organization of Aurora county was a necessity.

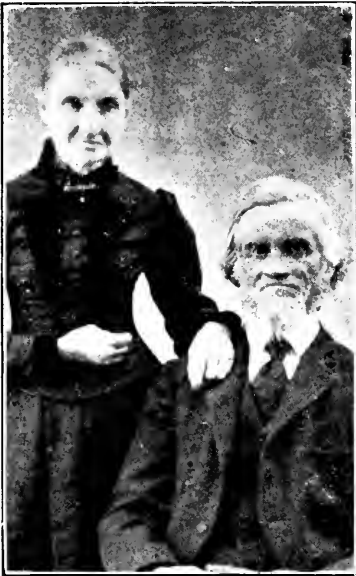
The law of the territory at that time provided that when any unorganized county should contain fifty voters it should be the duty of the acting governor to issue a commission to three of the residents there of whom should by virtue of such appointments, be authorized to do all things necessary to be done to construct a county government in accordance with the laws of the territory.

In the summer of 1881 a commission was given by the governor of the territory to Mr. A. B. Smart of township 107—65, and two other residents of the county of Aurora and they proceeded to appoint the other county officials and do the many things essential to set the machinery of the county in motion. In this work the member from the hills seems to have had his share of influence. In the appointment of the county officials Mr. D. W. Shryock was made a justice of the peace, C. W. P. Osgood, constable, Alden Brown, county superintendent, all of Wessington P. O., and Mr. L. G. Wilson of township 106—64, county assessor. Of these officers appointed by the first commissioners of Aurora county, Mr. Wilson was the only one who was selected by the people to succeed himself at the expiration of his appointed term.

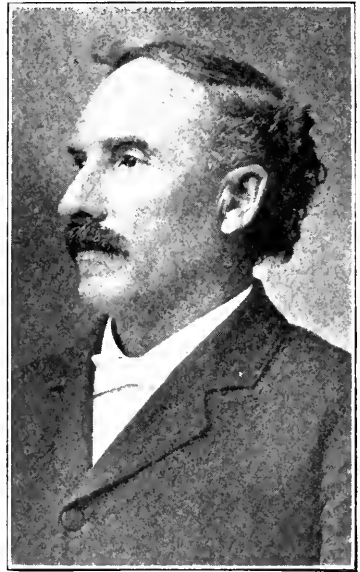
During the year 1881 the settlers had not been molested by the horse thieves and it was hoped that their troubles from that source were ended.

During a part of the summer and fall of 1881 Hudson Horsley lived with the family of his father-in-law, Mr. C. W. Hill on the NE of 22 in 108—65. Mr. Horsley had nearly completed a house on the SE of 26, which he had taken for a pre-emption claim in the same township. He had put up a stack of hay and was about ready to take up his abode for the winter on his own land.

Mr. Hill's residence was near the lower end of a gulch or ravine, that extended some distance back into the hills. A view to the south from



Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hill.



Rev. J. G. Campbell.



S. T. Leeds.



Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Holcolmb.

the house was cut off by the high peaks that rise many feet above the adjacent tops.

One evening in November, when the wind was in the south, a bright light in the air near Turtle Peak gave them warning that a prairie fire was approaching among the hills. Mr. Horsley went to his new house on section 26 to protect that and the hay. After he had gone, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Horsley, growing anxious to know the exact location of the flames which they knew must be somewhere near the upper end of the ravine, left the house on section 22 and walked up the valley in the direction of the fire. They reached the high land at the end of the gulch, where a two-furrow firebreak had been made, when they found that the fire had already passed them on the west and had crossed the valley between them and the house. In a word they were on the hill surrounded by fire. The light wind drove the flames straight toward them. To get out of the circle of fire was impossible. There was scarcely a moment for thought even. As the flames rushed upon them, Mrs. Horsley threw herself into the furrow that formed a part of the firebreak and pulled some of the sods over her head and neck. For one terrible instant she felt the stifling heat, then the flames had passed. She sprang to her feet and saw her mother standing beside her enveloped in flames. Neither had lost consciousness and both realized their peril. With bare hands they tore off the burning garments and each saved the other. They finally reached home again but both were ill for a long time from the effects of their fearful burns. Mr. Horsley had saved his barn and other property but had no use for it until the next season.

Chapter 5.

The year 1882 was an active year in the prairie settlement. North and south of it the railroads had been extended to the Missouri river, and the C. M. & St. P. that year built its James River line north from Mitchell as far as Letcher. At every station immigrants and prospectors unloaded from the trains by hundreds and literally scattered over the prairies. They came singly and in parties of twos, threes and dozens. Every shanty, sod house and dug-out became a lodging place where the newcomers could find shelter for a night.

As we have already seen the settlers about the Springs were a long ways from town and in case of sickness were practically without medical aid. So it was with much satisfaction that they welcomed the arrival

of Mrs. Dr. N. C. Weems, in February of 1882. She was a widow, well skilled in her profession and for many years was a veritable blessing to the people in the central part of Jerauld county.

With the opening of spring, settlers and prospective settlers began to spread over 106, 107 and 108 in the north part of Aurora county and the eastern part of Buffalo. It was difficult for the newcomers to select the unclaimed land from that for which entries had been already made at the land office. This fact induced several of the men who had been in the country about the hills long enough to become familiar with it, to make a regular business of assisting the immigrants to find suitable locations.

Among those who devoted their time to helping the newcomers to locate were C. W. Hill, Hiram Blowers, C. W. P. Osgood and A. B. Smart, the latter persuading C. W. McDonald to come out from Sioux Falls to form a partnership and engage in the business with him. This was the first firm of land agents at the Springs and continued six months, when it was dissolved by limitation of contract.

The first important event of the year 1882, was the organization of the M. E. Church, on the 30th of March for which articles of incorporation were adopted April 8th. The beginning of this church organization was made by Rev. A. B. Smart, on the occasion of his first visit to the hills, Nov. 14th, 1880. At that time he held religious services at the home of P. R. Barrett, and organized a class meeting. That organization had been continued, with services at irregular intervals, until the foundation of the regular church society as above stated. This nucleus of a church had been kept alive mainly through the efforts of Mr. Smart.

The charter members of this church corporation were:

Sarah Barrett, Mrs. Biddle, Fannie Tofflemier, Laura Shryock, C. W. McDonald, Omer Shryock, Thos. Shryock, Chas. Shryock, Rubie J. Smart, A. B. Smart, F. T. Tofflemier, Mrs. E. Tofflemier, Ruth Tofflemier, Kate Tofflemier, Ollie Tofflemier, Floy Tofflemier, Maud Tofflemier, Tell Tofflemier, Wm. Taylor.

With the organization of the church Rev. J. W. P. Jordan, father-in-law of A. B. Smart, was made pastor. The meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Riddle, which was located about the center of the south line of section 8—107—64.

At the first quarterly meeting of that year, 1882, it was determined to build a church 26 by 40 ft. in size on the northwest quarter of section 17. Of course to build a church required money. As the members of the little community were not able to pay the expense of erecting the proposed edifice it was necessary to look elsewhere for required funds. By a unanimous vote of the members of the church Mr. R. S. Bateman

was appointed a committee of one to look after that part of the undertaking.

As soon as he could put his affairs in shape for leaving, he drove to Huron and took the train for his old home at Appleton, Wis.

The next important event, especially to the parties concerned, was the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Horsley, of 108—65 at their home on the SE of section 26. The little Dakotan was named Orlo and was the first birth in what is now Jerauld county.

It is impossible to ascertain certainly the order in which the settlers arrived in 1882 and the years that followed. But in the spring of 1882 the number of residents was increased by the arrival of J. G. Campbell, C. T. Wallace, Geo. R. Bateman, H. J. Wallace, Findlay T. Tofflemier, J. A. Holcolmb, John Chapman, Seth Richardson, Wm. Goodwin, B. F. Wiley.

From the 5th of Nov. 1878 when it was established, until the 1st of July, 1882, the postoffice of which P. R. Barrett, was postmaster, had been known as Wessington, but on that day the department at Washington changed it to Elmer, and gave the name Wessington to a new office established in the western part of Beadle county on the C. & N. W. Ry. The change of name came as a complete surprise to the settlers by the springs and their indignation was great. Petitions signed by nearly all the settlers were time and again sent to the department officials asking that the former name of the office be restored.

The immediate employment of the people at that time was getting settled, breaking prairie and planting "sod crops." Their buildings, hastily constructed, were either frame shanties or "sod houses." The former were usually covered outside with tar paper and inside with such periodicals as the family received through the mails, while the sod structures had no lumber except what was required for window and door frames and roof. Occasionally some settler would select a spot on a side hill and with pick and shovel scoop out a hole 10x12 feet in size, throw over it a few planks and some dirt and use it for a temporary abode. These dwellings were models of neatness and afforded their occupants as much or more of comfort and unalloyed happiness, as they obtained in after years in more pretentious houses.

The erection of these buildings and hay or sod stables was the first move in getting settled. The next was to break up as much of the prairie as possible and get it planted. There was no "old ground" to rent and each one must prepare from the beginning the field that he sowed.

The breaking season always began as soon as the grass started, which was as early as the frost was out of the ground and continued until about the 20th of June. Settlers who had but one pair of animals would "double up" with a neighbor and so "change work" through the season.

Horses, oxen, cows, all that had strength to pull were put at the necessary work.

C. M. Chery and M. J. Thornton united their teams and began to turn up the tough sod. Thornton had been using the team which consisted of two of his own and one of Chery's horses for several days, when one morning, on going to the stable to feed the animals he found the stalls empty. Filled with misgivings he hurried to Chery's shanty to see if the horses had broken out of the stable and gone over there. Chery had seen nothing of them and a day of search and inquiry about the settlement failed to find any trace of the missing team. The horse-thieves had again commenced their work. In hayingtime two yoke of oxen belonging to Hudson Horsley and his brother Bromwell Horsley were gone and could not be found. Other losses were sustained and the settlers began to guard their stables with dog and gun. The presence of "night riders" was again reported and the mysterious comings and goings of strange men and of some "hangers-on," who had no visible means of support was a subject of much discussion in the neighborhood.

The settlers were now sufficiently numerous to dare to protect themselves and about Sept. 1st a move was set on foot to drive the lawless characters from the hills and gulches. A party captured a young fellow whose actions appeared to them suspicious and by threatening him with serious consequences if he did not reveal all he knew of the desperadoes, obtained from him a full statement of who the thieves were, their place of rendezvous and their method of operation. The boy was detained and application made to Justice of the Peace Shryock for a warrant for the arrest of all the members of the gang implicated by the boy's narrative. The warrant was issued and placed in the hands of C. W. P. Osgood, constable.

The news soon spread through the settlement that a raid was to be made on the horsethieves, supposed to be somewhere in the gulches. The constable did not feel like searching the hills and ravines alone and began to look about to gather a posse to assist him in making the arrests.

While the constable was gathering his assistants a party of settlers in 108—65, growing impatient and fearful that the desperadoes would get into hiding, started to capture some of them before the constable could arrive. The result of this move was the shooting of one man and the escape of the fellow supposed to be the leader of the horsethieves.

Meanwhile the constable was riding about with great bluster, calling for a posse and spreading the news of the proposed arrest. In the midst of the excitement W. I. Bateman drove to the residence of Rev. J. G. Campbell and asked him to join in helping the officer to serve the warrant. The minister readily assented and taking his Winchester rifle set

out with Bateman to join the constable. Mr. Osgood was satisfied with this acquisition to his force and immediately started for the ravine in 109—65, indicated by the boy's story as the hiding place of the men named in the warrant.

At the entrance to the gulch indicated the posse found a strange man, heavily armed, standing as a sentinel, who commanded the party to halt and then informed them that his instructions were to not allow anyone to go up that valley.

"Look here, my man," said the minister, "you come and look in this buggy." The man came to the vehicle and saw several rifles and revolvers lying on some hay in the bottom of the box. "Now," said Campbell, "it may be for your eternal welfare, both here and hereafter to get into that buggy and ride alone with us."

"I guess maybe your advice is good," replied the stranger as he climbed into the buggy and the party drove on.

They ascended the ravine to where they expected to find the man they were looking for, but he was gone. The party returned to the mouth of the gulch and there separated, Campbell and Osgood going on north along the foot of the hills to look for the other men named in the warrant.

Campbell and Osgood went to see the man who had been shot and found him suffering considerable pain and terribly frightened. The bullet had struck a rib, followed around his body to the back where it had passed out, giving the appearance of having gone directly through him. Campbell probed the wound and having learned the course taken by the bullet assured the man that his hurt was not fatal. He then sent for Mrs. Dr. Weems to attend the injured fellow and departed on his errand with the constable.

It was afternoon when they left home and the trip up the ravine had taken considerable time. Night had now come on and the two men proceeded by starlight.

After traveling a mile or so they heard the loud voices of men evidently intoxicated. The strangers were on foot and coming along the trail which the minister and constable were following. Osgood at once recognized the voices as those of the men he wanted. He and Campbell got out of the buggy and taking their weapons advanced to meet the approaching group. The drunken men did not notice the constable and his companion until the minister stepped squarely in front of them with leveled rifle and ordered them to throw up their hands. The men were dumfounded, but their hands went up, instantly. Soon they realized that they were facing a leveled rifle and two revolvers. Then their profanity became terrific, but lower their hands they dare not. They obeyed

an order to face about, and then stood still with uplifted hands until the constable had taken a brace of revolvers from each of them. They were then put into the buggy and guarded by the constable and his companion were taken to Osgood's residence where they were detained until the next day. A preliminary examination was held before Justice Shryock and the settlers then realized that it is one thing to have suspicions, well founded, in fact to be fully convinced, and feel that they absolutely know a thing, and still not be able to prove it.

The boy when brought into court declared the story he had told the men who had threatened him was all false, and told to save himself from punishment. The justice could do nothing but discharge the prisoners, except the young fellow, who spent a long time in the jail at Plankinton. The result, however, was effectual. The settlers were no longer molested by the desperadoes.

Chapter 6.

About the 20th of May 1882, assessor L. G. Wilson began the first assessment of Aurora county. In that portion now contained in Jerauld county he found 123 persons.

In the spring and summer of 1882 settlers established themselves in other parts of the county. In 106—65 Joseph Mottle located with a herd of cattle on the SE of Sec. 5; S. S. Moore put in a sod crop on the SE of 23 and N. E. Williams on the NW of 13 and later in the year V. I. Converse built a small shanty on the SE of 28; Jule Swan also located there that summer.

In 106—66 Frank Spinler began work in May on his tree claim and did the first breaking in the township. He built a sod house on the same claim, the SW of 26, about the same time. At the southwest corner of Crow Lake, Albert Allyn, a clerk in the land office at Mitchell selected a claim in Sec. 27, as soon as the surveyor's plat was filed and he and Spinler were at work on their sod buildings at the same time.

In the NE part of 106—67, Combs & Harris located a horse ranch in Sec. 2, while in 107—67, later in the season Abe Scyoc and Henry Ferren settled in Sec. 18. Among those who came to the western part of the county prospecting that season was C. S. Jacobs, from Victor, N. Y., who located a tree claim in Sec. 6—106—66. S. S. Vrooman, from Pana, Ill., and E. S. Waterbury and his brother Dan, both from Polo, Ill., each of whom took from one to three claims in 107—67. At the

same time S. T. Leeds came from Amboy, Ill., and traversed the whole length of what is now Jerauld county. Leeds selected a fine quarter section in what is Pleasant township and went to the land office at Mitchell to make a tree claim entry for it. He paid his money, obtained a filing receipt and went on his way to Illinois. When he returned the next year he found that his receipt described land six miles west of that he had selected. The reason was that 107—66 had not been surveyed, but 107—67 had been, and the officials at the land office preferred to give him what he didn't want, rather than take the trouble to explain.

In the fall of that year Mrs. Mary Hendricks, the first woman settler in 107—67, came out from Polo, Ill., and filed on the southwest quarter of section 11. Early in the next spring she came again and for several years remained a resident of that township.

On the 11th day of July, 1882, a party of four men, driving several hundred head of sheep arrived at the settlement about the big spring and stopped at the residence of Hiram Blowers for the night. The next morning they went west, over the hills looking for land upon which to locate a sheep ranch taking the flock with them. They were the first to cross the hills for the purpose of settlement and two of them are still residents of the county. The party consisted of O. O. England, C. W. England, Chas. Armstrong and N. B. England. They went up into township 108—66, then unsurveyed, and when they found a place that suited them they stopped and began the first habitation between the Springs and Ft. Thompson.

About two months later Mr. Allan G. Snyder moved on to his present farm in sections 14 and 23 in the same township and has kept up his establishment alone for twenty-seven years.

In the northeast part of the county in the north part of township 108—63 Wm. Arne had found a tract of land that suited him and made it his home. In the south part of the township two gentlemen from England had set their stakes and were making themselves homes on the prairie. One was John Cook and the other Thos. Sheffield. Both are in that township with their families yet.

Just across the line in Sanborn county, Mrs. Mary Barber and Miss Betsy Litchfield were holding claims. They will be remembered by all the early settlers as the two ladies who for many years were the hostesses of the Alpena Revere House.

In township 107—66, B. F. Crittenden, a private surveyor, had established his residence on the SW of 35.

Among the newcomers were two of especial assistance to their neighbors—in those days "neighborhood" extended over a wide stretch of country. These two men were John Chapman, who had settled on the



G. N. Price's Livery Barn at Waterbury.



Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Sheffield.



Miss Betsey Litchfield.



Mrs. Mary Barber.

SE of section 17—107—64 and Wm. Goodwin on the SW of 32 in the same township. Both were skilled blacksmiths and soon had all they could do in attending to the wants of the settlers.

Until July 1st, 1882, the people about the hills had relied upon the mail route from Mitchell to Ft. Thompson for their mail. Then the government gave them a line once a week from Plankinton.

On the 4th day of March, 1882, President Arthur issued a patent conveying title to the land embraced in Stearns' proof, made April 30, 1881, and upon which the big springs are located. On the 10th of May, 1882, Mr. Burr sold to D. A. Scott a one-half interest in this tract of land and they immediately set Surveyor Israel Green, of Mitchell, at work platting the town of Wessington Springs. The town plat was filed in the office of the register of deeds of Aurora county, May 26th, 1882. This was the first official publication of the name "Wessington Springs."

Another important event, the first of its kind in the country embraced in the county of Jerauld, was the marriage of C. W. McDonald and Fanny Tofflemier, on the 17th of August, 1882, at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Tofflemier. The officiating clergyman was Rev. A. B. Smart.

On the—day of—, 1882, Alden Brown, growing tired of the duties of his office resigned the position of county superintendent of Aurora county, and Mr. C. W. McDonald was, at the instance of Commissioner Smart, appointed to fill the vacancy. As the school townships were not organized, however, there was but little work for that officer to do.

As the time for the November election approached the people of Aurora county began to look about for men to succeed the appointed officials. In the whole political arena there is probably no position more trying or thankless than that of commissioner to organize a new county. Many a political ambition, or business scheme, depends for its success upon the policy to be adopted by that first board. The old proverb, "as the twig is bent the tree is inclined," is as true of young counties as of young children.

The commissioners of Aurora county had incurred the enmity of a number of men possessed of considerable political influence, who determined to punish them by defeating their election to succeed themselves. For member from the hill district they determined that Mr. Smart should not be continued in office. The result was that that commissioner was retired and Mr. R. S. Bateman, of Wessington Springs, put in his place.

Mr. L. G. Wilson, of township 106—64, was continued as assessor, but was cut off from further work, for Aurora county, by the division of that county, which occurred the next year.

Late in the fall of 1882 a man named S. Woodhouse built a shanty on

the townsite of Wessington Springs, but in a few days moved it out into the country. This was the first building erected on the townsite.

Chapter 7.

In the early part of February, 1883, E. S. Waterbury and his brother, Dan Waterbury, came back to their claims in the west half of section 21—107—67 and prepared for platting a town. The plat which was filed on the 10th day of March, 1883, comprised eight blocks, six and a half in the southwest corner of the NW quarter of the section owned by E. S. Waterbury, and one and a half blocks in the northwest corner of the SW quarter, owned by Dan Waterbury. They had erected a building, of lumber brought with them from the woods about Polo, Ill., on the line between their two claims. For a time it was the only structure on the townsite. The new village was named Waterbury, after the men who founded it.

Two miles away, on the SW of 29, in the same township, a man by the name of John R. Miller, but who was masquerading under the name of John Scott, had filed a pre-emption claim, and with a man named Burpee and another, a minister, F. M. Cooley, of Cedar Lake, Iowa, began to plat a town which they called Sulphur Springs. The name was also given to a large spring that was close enough to the site to furnish the town with abundance of water. The Sulphur Springs plat was made a matter of record five days after the Waterbury plat was filed. Both were entered of record in Brule county, to which Buffalo county had for some time been attached for judicial purposes.

The two towns were near the line which it was thought the S. M. branch of the C. M. & St. P. Ry. would follow from Diana (Artesian) to the Missouri river. They were rival towns in the strictest sense of the word. No more beautiful or fertile land could be found in the whole territory and it only required transportation and population to make one of them a fine city and the county seat of Buffalo county. Which should it be?

The railroads, hotels and livery stables were surprised, astonished and overwhelmed.

If 1882 was a year for prospectors, 1883 was the year for settlers. The number of settlers in '83 far more than doubled the number of those who came to "look" in previous years. All the railroads leading into the territory were strained to the utmost to carry the immigrant freight

billed to some point between the James and Missouri rivers. The railroad between Mitchell and Kimball was lined on both sides with people in wagons, in tents and some without any shelter, in camp, getting their movables ready, as fast as possible to move off into the country. The village hotels and residences were crowded with people who sought shelter from the March or April weather.

Everybody was talking of the new county that the last territorial legislature had formed out of the north part of Aurora. Plankinton was the main point of debarkation for those who were going to the central part while those who were going into the eastern part of the new county left the railroad at Mitchell or Huron.

Townships 106—67, 107—67 and 108—67 had been a part of Buffalo county prior to the creation of Jerauld county by the legislature of 1883, and the fact that they had been put in to make up the new county, does not seem to have been generally known until some months later.

All, however, received the on-rush of settlers. At White Lake and Kimball hundreds of men left the train every day, swarmed to the hotels and eating houses, and then as fast as teams could be hired, and as fast as teams could take them, they rushed for townships 106, 107 and 108, ranges 66 and 67. The objective points were Waterbury or Sulphur Springs in 107—67, or Crow Lake in 106—66.

Crow Lake in the southern part of 106—66 is a body of water covering an area of about 700 acres. It was a meandered lake, and well known by reputation to many people who had never seen it. Settlers in telling of their claims referred to them as being north, south, east or west from Crow Lake. People who went into the western part of Jerauld county entered it by way of Waterbury or Sulphur Springs, or by way of Crow Lake or Wessington Springs.

By the first of August nearly every quarter section in the surveyed townships had been filed on and in the unsurveyed the land was subject to some "squatter's" right. So great was the influx of people that the first assessor's report made in June, 1884, showed 1,111 voters in the new county and a population of nearly 2,500, and yet it is doubtful if the population increased any after the first of October, 1883. The assessment of 1882 had reported only 123 persons, all told, in the part of the county then belonging to Aurora. At the time of the '82 assessment there were no settlers in range 67.

While the incoming settlers were racing over the prairies to get the choicest locations, the two towns of Waterbury and Sulphur Springs were vying with each other to get the lead in business and general importance.

Each had a newspaper about the same time, "The News" at Water-

bury and "The Buffalo County Herald" at Sulphur Springs. Both publications started in May or June. Then Sulphur Springs got a saloon, run by Pond & Fluke. Waterbury did not have a saloon and did not want one.

But the saloon at Sulphur Springs was short lived. In fact it went to pieces before it really got started. One of the partners, Fluke, a German, furnished the capital with which to finance the enterprise, and against this Pond was to put in his time. They brought from Kimball four barrels of whiskey and a load of lumber. Before the building was erected however, a quarrel between the partners dissolved the firm. Two of the barrels had been opened and about half the contents sold when the dissolution of partnership occurred. Pond claimed and took the two full barrels of whiskey and half the lumber and hauled it to his claim in Buffalo county.

The part of the assets reserved by Fluke was seized by the landlord, Conrad, for a board bill and stored in the cellar of the hotel and then taken to a shanty on the SE of section 31 in 107—67. From there it disappeared in small quantities, portions of it being found later on the surrounding prairie, under stones and in other hiding places.

Pond retained his share of the liquor, and the license, until the part taken by Fluke was gone and then it also vanished. There has never since been a saloon in the western part of Jerauld county.

S. T. Leeds had already opened a blacksmith shop at Sulphur Springs while W. E. DeMent had set up a forge in the rival town. Each town had a hotel ready for use about the same time. Dr. Jones built the hostelry at Waterbury and leased it to Wilbur Cross, while Mr. Conrad put up the one at Sulphur Springs.

Sulphur Springs secured a post office first, and it was thought a decided advantage was obtained by it. But the advantage, if any, was somewhat lessened by the fact that the department had refused to give the office the name of the town and called it "Delta." Mr. Waterbury **offset** the advantage that the opposing town had from its post office, which received mail from Kimball once a week, by going to Kimball twice a week and getting the mail for all the residents and patrons of his town.

F. M. Cooley, who ran the "Herald," told editorially of the advantages of Sulphur Springs as a business location, while Dunlap, publisher of the "News," told of the growing importance of Waterbury. Burton Brown opened a general store in Sulphur Springs and Rice & Herring started a similar establishment, but on a larger scale, in the other town.

Then Sulphur Springs organized a brass band, and Waterbury formed a string band.

Sulphur Springs organized a Congregational Church, incorporated it and built a church building 20x30 feet in size.

This church, the first of its denomination in the county, was incorporated Nov. 1st, 1883, the charter being issued to F. M. Cooley, Joseph Ponsford, Henry E. Merwin, Chas. Lyon and others whose names are unobtainable. The name of the society was "First Congregational Church of Buffalo County, D. T." At the time the charter was applied for, the people of that portion of the county did not know that the townships in range 67 had been detached from Buffalo county and made a part of the new county of Jerauld.

When the time came for laying the foundation wall for the church the minister's wife went about among the people of the town soliciting from each some little thing to put under the corner stone. She met with good success until she reached the blacksmith shop. "I have nothing," said the man at the bellows. "O yes! Any little thing, no matter what," insisted the lady. "I know I haven't anything at all—but yet, wait. I'll tell you, I've a half-pint flask. I hate to spare it, but I'll put that under the stone." "No, no," said the good woman, "there shall be no such thing as that in the collection."

"Yes," said the smith, growing determined with opposition, "I'll put it under the stone."

"But I say you shall not."

"Well then, I'll put it beneath a stone at the other corner, but under a corner of the wall the flask shall go."

So the flask was left out of the collection, but when the mason laid the stone at one of the other corners the smith thrust the flask in under it.

A few weeks later a heavy wind struck the church, partly moving it from the wall. Then it was found that the corner resting above the flask had not been moved perceptibly.

When the crowd gathered about the building to ascertain the damage the smith remarked, "If I had only put a flask under each corner."

As both towns were ambitious to be the county seat of Buffalo county, they determined to call a mass convention to nominate county officers. The plan was to ask the governor to appoint the commissioners nominated by the convention, after which the commissioners should organize the county and appoint the other officers named.

The convention was held in the fore part of August, at Waterbury, and E. A. Herman, W. H. Crandall and E. W. Cleveland were nominated for commissioners. Of course nothing came of the movement and later the idea of still remaining a part of Buffalo county was abandoned.

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Chapter 8.

The surveying of the various townships of Jerauld county was done under different contracts, let by the government to surveyors at different times. The townships in ranges 64 and 65 were surveyed in 1874 and those in 63 the year following. Township 106—66, 106—67, 108—66, and 107—67 were surveyed in 1882, while those numbered 107—66 and 108—67 were surveyed in the spring and summer of 1883.

On the surveyed lands the settlers had no trouble in selecting the tracts they desired, but in the townships where the lines had not been run, the difficulty was sometimes great, especially so if the country was rough and broken. Some of the squatters employed private surveyors to extend the lines from surveyed townships, some, starting from a corner stake already established, would measure with a marked buggy or wagon wheel, while others would "step" off the required distance. The greater portion of 107—66, 108—66 and 108—67 was settled upon by squatters in advance of the government surveyors.

In the summer of 1883 while the contractor was surveying the lines of 107—66, he was much surprised by the sudden disappearance of his flagman who was but a short distance away and on comparatively level ground. The man had dropped out of sight while the surveyor was looking back over the route they had come. A half hour passed and then in place of the flagman appeared a fellow wearing an enormously tall plug hat, a swallow-tailed coat and carrying a light cane. All the afternoon the surveyor followed the strange flagman who seemed to know well enough the duties of his position.

When evening came and the crew gathered at the camp fire the stranger proved to be the regular flagman. In passing the NE of 21 the man had noticed a board lying upon the prairie about which the grass had been a good deal trampled. The appearance aroused his curiosity and he turned the board over. This disclosed a hole leading down into a room about 8x10 feet in size. He dropped into the room, which was unoccupied, and found a sheet iron stove, a bed, a rude stool and several articles of wearing apparel. He exchanged garments with the unknown squatter and climbing to the surface appeared before the surveyor as the strange flagman. The next day when passing the same quarter again the flagman stopped to "reswap" and found the hole, or "dugout" occupied by a negro who was holding the land under the rules of "squatter sovereignty." The hole was his domicile and constituted his improvements. When the surveyor's plat was filed the darkey made entry for the land and afterwards perfected his proof. The hole was the only residing place he ever had on—or in—the land.

That the reader may get the full interest of the story of Jerauld county as we proceed the names are here given that appeared upon the tax list of the various townships in 1884, which was made in the months of May and June of that year. The list is so large that it is impossible to give the order in which the settlers came; but it is safe to say that nearly all came in 1883, or before, and all prior to May 1st, 1884:

Logan, (106—67)—H. C. Andrews, John W. Atkinson, S. X. Atkins, G. R. Bass, W. J. Burnett, D. M. Brannon, E. R. Burgess, Joseph Byer, E. Blakeslee, W. H. Butterfield, D. A. Brannon, W. S. Combs, Jr., Mr. Colwall, E. Coleman, T. Chase, J. N. Barker, A. J. Brown, F. Coupleman, Zebulon P. DeForest, Mary Dykeman, William DeKay, Ira Ellis, Austin S. Fordham, Wm. H. Fox, Mary Frick, H. A. Frick, Henry E. Geweke, A. L. Gotwals, Geo. W. Gallers, W. Hayter, Adam P. Hoag, Stephen Hillers, A. Harris, Geo. Housner, Charles Hastings, W. Hodge, J. B. June, Neils C. E. Jorgenson, H. Krumswied, August Kappleman, Christian Kuhrt, C. F. Kuhrt, Frank Knight, B. F. Levette, James Long, Henry Mundfrom, Alex McClellan, John Marris, Charles W. Mentzer, H. H. Moulton, C. C. Meyer, Chas. S. Marvin, Annie E. Norin, Wm. Niemeyer, J. E. Noggle, Andrew Pflaum, J. Purdy, D. B. Paddock, E. W. Patten, Joseph G. Reaset, J. A. Riegel, W. Rosenbaum, P. J. Rahbe, H. A. Robinson, G. B. Robinson, A. Rosenbaum, Eugene Roe, W. A. Ransom, A. Solomon, Joseph Sutherland, Will S. Sapham, David Strabble, R. V. Smith, Arthur Sykes, B. L. Solomon, Herman Schurke, Orlo Stannard, Willis Stannard, J. M. Spears, Herman Walters, Hiram Woodbury, Andrew Wilson, J. M. Wray, J. F. Wicks, E. G. Will, Henry P. Will, J. H. Young.

Crow, (107—67)—Wm. Austin, D. W. Bracy, U. E. Babb, C. W. Blackney, U. P. Bump, Harry T. Bert, David Barr, Geo. W. Burger, H. N. Brown, N. J. Barr, Henry C. Corey, Geo. A. Chambers, Wilber M. Cross, T. P. Clark, Hugh Connel, E. Corsen, Morris E. Curtis, C. A. Cahill, C. A. Conrad, Clarence C. Carnes, F. M. Cooley, J. F. Cooley, T. J. Dickey, T. R. Dunlap, W. E. Dement, Wm. Dunlap, Delavan L. Davis, James Dunlap, Samuel Dunlap, Frank Dunlap, John Eagen, Jerry Foley, James Fgerty, Eveline Gray, L. H. Goodrich, J. A. Grace, George Gilbert, Charles Green, W. H. Howard, Josephine Herring, Mary L. Healy, E. A. Herman, S. E. Herman, John Hessett, Henry Herring, Jack Harrison, Jorgen Jorgenson, D. T. Jones, Horace P. Jones, G. King, W. King, K. Knutson, E. A. Kreitzer, W. G. Kellogg, Seth Kethledge, S. T. Leeds, Geo. L. Light, Thos. W. Lane, H. A. Lamb, Chas. H. McClintic, E. F. Merwin, John R. Miller, H. E. Merwin, C. V. Martin, L. W. Miles, Penelope Miller, E. V. Martin, L. P. Miles, A. M. Moore, E. N. Mount, F. L. Norin, C. B. Noble, Jacob Norin, Thomas

H. Null, Geo. H. Pierce, James A. Paddock, W. F. Ponsford, Joseph Ponsford, E. S. Platner, Chas. E. Platner, L. R. Prichard, J. L. Perry, Wm. H. Plank, Anna A. Peterson, G. N. Price, W. A. Pond, G. S. Rowe, W. A. Rex, C. G. Robinson, Mrs. S. C. Rowe, H. M. Rice, Jean Rabie, Alvah Remington, Joseph Roberts, H. L. Shakespeare, Frank Sage, Eugene Stanley, Miss R. F. Scott, Minnie Stanley, A. Snart, John Snart, Patrick Sweeney, Chas. M. Torrence, S. S. Vrooman, R. A. Wheeler, Geo. Waterbury, P. A. Wilson, P. H. Whalen, David Waterbury, J. L. Wilson, Lewis J. Waterbury, Joseph Wertz, A. E. White, David H. Waterbury, E. S. Waterbury, O. P. Waterbury, D. O. Wilson.

Marlaur, (108—67)—John Briles, John Buchanan, Wm. S. Bass, J. P. Boisen, Herbert Baker, Chas. Boisen, F. M. Bemis, Amrose Baker, S. M. Baker, Jas. Buchanan, W. Cavico, J. F. Calvert, Charles Christianson, J. M. Corbin, John L. Collier, Helen E. Dement, A. H. DeLap, J. H. Daniel, Frank Danberg, O. C. Emery, J. M. Flint, Evans Flack, Brice Garvis, Geo. G. Groub, Wm. Grace, Mary Grimwood, Z. Groub, J. J. Groub, Elial Heaton, Tillman Hunt, John A. Hudson, R. P. Hites, A. T. Hudson, Calvin Hain, Hattie Hillman, Oscar N. Hillman, J. W. Lamb, Elwood Lancaster, Matilda Lindquist, P. O. Lindquist, Wm. Marshall, B. F. Marlaur, Wm. Marlaur, Christian Movek, Theron Mills, Wm. Orr, E. Orcutt, Peter Peterson, F. J. Pressey, David Potter, D. Rodney Pavey, John Ruan, G. H. Rhodes, A. Remington, Levi Strong, W. M. Scofield, W. S. Scofield, C. F. Scofield, C. C. Sapp, Geo. A. Sloan, Patrick Swiney, A. C. Thompson, James Tolbert, W. R. Whipple, Emeline Waterbury.

Harmony, (108—66)—Mary E. Burger, Joseph Bromley, Geo. S. Brady, Anson Beals, Mary E. Ballard, Wm. Bremner, Chas. A. Brown, Clayton Brown, Jas. H. Cool, Joseph H. Collier, John C. Chapman, Delos Clink, John Collier, Chas. Darling, N. J. Dunham, John Eglin, O. O. England, Henry L. England, Joseph R. Eddy, C. W. England, Geo. S. Eddy, L. O. Evans, Adolph Fesenmier, Fred Fisher, Otto Fesenmier, James Grieve, Isaac Grimons, W. T. Hammack, Edwin Hamblin, Morris A. Hoar, J. M. Hanson, T. J. Morris, A. M. Moor, S. E. Mills, O. J. Marshall, C. W. Mills, W. A. Miller, C. M. Mills, Daniel Mitchell, J. H. Murphy, Wm. Murphy, Lewis Nordyke, August Ponto, H. A. Peirce, C. S. Richardson, I. N. Rich, Moses Rich, G. H. Shepherd, Allen G. Snyder, W. M. Skinner, T. W. Sample, Chas. G. Smith, John Shannon, Jefferson Sickler, R. O. Sheldon, Geo. W. Titus, W. M. Titus, Thomas Walsh, Peter Welfring, Thomas D. Williams, Thomas S. Whitehouse, Will McGalliard.

Chapter 9.

Pleasant. (107—66)—J. E. Adkinson, G. Bingham, C. S. Barber, Joseph Bowen, George Barnes, J. A. Barnum, L. M. Brown, Isaac Byam, W. W. Brower, Anna E. Brower, James Cavanaugh, W. H. Coolidge, J. F. Chandler, P. N. Chandler, Ed Cummings, O. E. Corwin, B. F. Crittendon, Wm. A. Dean, John Day, T. H. Durfee, E. Dwyer, Hiram Dean, E. Ditsworth, James Dwyer, Irwin Eaton, P. J. Eddy, Andrew Faust, James Foster, S. W. Foster, Rial Farmer, Henry P. Faust, George Fisher, Henry Finster, O. E. Gaffin, Samuel Gailey, J. W. Gerken, J. A. Gaffin, Mattie E. Gloyd, Frank E. Gaffin, S. F. Huntley, H. D. Hinnners, C. J. Hunt, C. W. Hilliker, Herman Hinnners, Chas. R. Hansen, W. E. Hunt, D. C. Hewitt, Robert Hiatt, I. S. Ingham, N. J. Ingham, A. H. Ingham, Daniel Jacobs, John Jacobs, Joseph Jacobs, J. B. Jacobs, J. T. Johnston, L. A. King, Henry Kallis, Geo. W. King, Kate M. Knieriem, Geo. Knieriem, Herman Krueger, W. W. Lewis, J. F. Lynn, Henry McElwain, Noah Moonshover, S. J. Moore, Thos. Murphy, Samuel Marlence, John Murphy, Ira Maxwell, Albert J. Miller, A. R. Powell, J. D. Powell, F. M. Pratt, Francis Pryne, Josephine J. M. Pryne, J. C. Pomeroy, Miss S. J. Richardson, Theo. Round, J. S. Richardson, Wm. Reagan, J. J. Snyder, J. E. Sullivan, Jacob Stickley, E. A. Sowerwine, R. H. Stetson, Geo. Strong, Miss Annie Salter, Samuel Sowerwine, S. B. Shimp, B. R. Shimp, G. W. Stetson, R. C. Trollope, J. W. Todd, G. W. Trollope, A. E. Turrill, — Thompson, W. H. Toaz, T. Tryon, R. S. Vessey, Mark Williams, Thos. Warburton.

Crow Lake. (106—66)—A. M. Allyn, Elizabeth A. Amos, Thomas Amos, W. R. Annis, R. A. Buckmaster, Mary V. Burroughs, Fred E. Burroughs, August Bachmor, Elizabeth Bartlett, Sherman Bartlett, James H. Baker, Perry Blojak, Gustav Beutner, Frank Bruz, E. H. Crossman, C. S. Crossman, John Conley, James Conley, Gideon E. Clark, John Deindorfer, Vaurin Dusek, Geo. Deindorfer, Carsten Detlefs, Louis Deindorfer, Wm. H. DeGroat, B. F. Drown, Fred Daum, Sr., Fred Daum, Jr., C. E. Daum, A. Duschick, J. P. Evans, Alex Erickson, Bertha E. Erickson, Joseph Fox, Thomas Fox, Ellis Gratz, Ellen D. Gordon, John Gibisch, Enos Granby, Joseph Gibisch, Sr., Joseph Gibisch, Jr., John Hicks, Robert Hibel, Samuel Hibel, John Hiller, J. L. Heintz, Wm. A. Huffman, R. Y. Hazard, D. R. Hughes, Robt. Hughes, E. N. Huntley, R. J. Hughes, Chas. W. Henning, Frank Haas, E. J. Holdridge, Thos. Henning, John N. Henning, Coleman Harrington, Henry M. Haffey, Carl Haas, Fred Hoagland, Charles S. Jacobs, B. F. Jones, Samuel L. Kneedler, John Klekar, Louis Kratzer, Ernest Lain, Albert Maxwell, Peter Mohr, Thomas Mitchell, Corneilus Myer, Nicholas Myer, Sr.,

Nicholas Myer, Jr., John Monarch, Frank Morawac, George J. Moest, Z. S. Moulton, David Moulton, Eliza J. Mentzer, Theo. F. Mentzer, Samuel H. Melcher, James Nelson, Andrew Nelson, Joseph O'Brien, Fred Paulson, Emma Paulson, Anton Reindl, Matt Rupert, Elliott L. Sawyer, Frank Spinler, Wm. Shultz, John H. Schmidt, Nelson Swanson, Philip W. Tabor, Joseph Vanous, John Vanous, Geo. Vanous, J. H. Wichman, James Wamuse.

Anina, (106—65)—W. A. Baker, E. T. Bowen, John Bancroft, Mrs. Mary E. Bogardus, Michael Barr, James Barr, C. B. Blake, J. C. Barr, Chas. H. Coggs hall, Miss F. Cummins, Miss Emma Cady, Elmer Carpenter, Anton Clementson, Christian Clementson, Robert Coe, V. I. Converse, A. D. Cady, Thomas G. Derry, W. R. Day, James T. Ferguson, I. H. French, Mrs. L. G. French, M. Greer, Claus Gunderson, Henry Gunderson, Mary J. Genet, Wm. H. Hensley, Kate Hannaberry, Wm. Hodgson, Fred A. Hagenbruck, Asa Hodgson, Mary D. Hagenbruck, O. F. Kellogg, Erie E. Kellogg, Bridget A. Kenny, C. C. Little, Louie Lindsey, J. M. Lyle, E. C. Lyle, George Lind, Joseph Lehmen, Miss Nellie Lewis, Joseph Motl, E. Moon, Gordon McDonald, Adolf Mahler, Geo. Maxwell, John Moore, McReady Martin, S. S. Moore, Jas. T. McGlashan, C. R. Nelson, John B. Neal, Don C. Needham, Hattie E. Needham, Barnet Neal, Fidelia Overton, William Pooley, Frank Pecachek, John Pavcek, Alva Primmer, W. B. Primmer, Orin Parker, G. V. Rhoades, Jas. C. Ryall, Mrs. Rhoades, R. S. Russell, Westly Shultz, Jesse Shultz, John W. Shultz, David S. Smelser, Miss Jennie Swan, Louis Schwarz, Jule A. Swan, Thomas E. Sadler, Henry J. Talbot, Samuel Totten, Charles Vesey, Mittie S. Vessey, C. W. Vessey, Peter Van Slyke, Henry Walters, Norris E. Williams, Geo. Walters, C. F. Walker, G. A. Winegarden, Helen Wheeler.

Media, (107—65)—Samuel Arnold, A. S. Beals, W. R. Brush, W. I. Bateman, A. F. Bateman, Geo. W. Bennett, R. S. Bateman, A. A. Beels, Wm. Bush, C. L. Beach, Miss M. H. C. Bennett, D. E. Braught, R. Bush, R. H. Cowell, E. E. Cummings, B. G. Cummings, M. A. Cummings, Horace B. Coley, John Cross, M. D. Crow, Lucinda C. Comforth, Lucy A. Dixon, E. L. DeLine, Theodore Dean, James F. DeVine, Thos. V. Donovan, John DeVine, J. H. Farnham, Mary A. French, E. H. Ford, Jas. A. Hindman, W. A. Housel, M. J. Harris, Daniel Hindman, Charles Hanson, G. B. Hanford, A. Johnson, John H. Kugler, Chas. Kugler, Rudolph Krauz, Edward Kutzner, Mike J. Long, Augustin LaPoint, W. C. Mundie, C. W. McDonald, Donald McDonald, T. A. McGinnis, A. M. Mathias, R. M. Magee, J. E. McNamara, Calvin Ott, Mortimer Powell, George Pratt, Myron Pratt, A. Phillips, Wm. P. Ryan, Jos. Rummelhart, A. Schubert, Harland Stowell, J. M. Smith, Mrs. A. B. Smart, A. B.

Smart, Isaac L. Stevens, B. F. Swatman, Mrs. L. G. Swatman, Wm. Theeler, Herman Theeler, John Tawls, C. Thompson, Gustaf Theeler, Cyrus Thompson, C. E. Thayer, W. E. Taylor, E. Voorhees, J. H. Vessey, Jas. H. Woodburn, Jas. Weibold, Mrs. A. B. Williams, A. Warburton.

Chery, (108—65)—Joseph Ackerson, George Archer, Henry L. Bartlett, K. W. Blanchard, Harvey Butler, Geo. W. Bolton, J. F. Bolton, E. H. Cleaver, C. M. Chery, B. F. Chapman, Lina French, John Decker, P. B. Davis, Chas. Davis, B. Drake, A. R. Doty, Joseph Geopfert, G. Goppert, John Gilbert, S. B. Georgia, B. Horsley, Wm. Horsley, H. M. Hay, Jesse Harmston, R. M. Kayner, Jerusha Johnson, Chas. Marson, A. Mercer, Wm. Marlow, Fred Phillips, Philip Phillips, Salon Palmer, E. A. Palmer, Samuel Richardson, O. W. Richardson, Lemuel F. Russell, Mrs. A. A. Riddle, W. H. Robeson, Wm. J. Reese, Jacob Rosenthal, Lawrence Russell, Thos. Roach, Bridget Roach, James Roach, Joseph D. Roach, Albert Russell, Chas. Smith, Hudson Horsley, W. T. Hay, W. N. Hill, E. C. Hill, C. W. Hill, James Hoar, Inez L. Hoar, Geo. Homewood, George Iosty, H. P. Jones, Sarah Johnston, John Juza, Albert N. Louder, Miss Love, H. J. Louder, H. W. Louder, T. W. Lanning, T. J. Lanning, W. R. Lanning, J. W. Mellick, Herman Miller, J. W. McCullough, M. H. Martin, Ole Nelson, John Neff, C. W. P. Osgood, D. N. Paxton, J. H. Palmer, W. E. Phillips, Fred Phillips, John Poff, — Raymond, M. E. Small, Jesse Simons, A. Sturgis, E. D. Schaefer, J. W. Simons, M. A. Schaefer, E. L. Turner, Chas. Taylor, M. J. Thornton, F. M. Townsend, H. J. Wallace, T. L. White, F. E. Woodruff, Sarah Wilkinson, Miss L. Young, J. C. Zimmerman.

Dale, (108—64)—John A. Adebar, Vincent Brechtel, Wm. Burns, B. B. Beadell, Anthony Bixler, Alden Brown, Chas. D. Brown, R. A. Bartlett, W. G. Cakebread, Edward Crawford, John Campbell, Archie Campbell, John Cook, Ely W. Chapman, John Crawford, John N. Dynes, Chas. Dawson, James Eastman, F. J. Eastman, A. B. Easter, Wm. Edgar, Emily J. Easter, Ira Eldell, B. F. Eagle, Louis Fenstimaker, R. R. Griffith, Daniel Schmidt, Ernest Schmidt, Joseph Scott, Charles Scott, John Teasdale, Robt. Tracy, Wilber I. Tower, D. Townsend, Clement Turner, R. Vandervene, Peter Wieland, Geo. H. Youngs.

Chapter 10.

Wessington Springs, (107—64)—S. H. Albert, M. C. Ayers, P. R. Barrett, Hiram Blowers, P. B. Berlin, J. J. Barnes, Geo. R. Bateman, J. G. Campbell, A. V. Custer, Solomon Carey, Geo. T. Chapman, John Chapman, Daniel Carey, Thomas Drake, LaFayette Ewers, Lucina Eager, M. M. Flint, John R. Francis, J. F. Ford, H. D. Fisher, Andrew Gilleron, Ernest Garendt, John Grant, Wm. M. Goodwin, Newell Grant, W. W. Goodwin, N. C. Hall, Wm. Huffman, Wm. Hawthorne, C. E. Hackett, Lars Johnson, James Johnson, J. W. P. Jordan, Robert Johnson, George Johnson, S. Kinney, E. Knudson, Andrew Lund, Martha Lewis, Ed Lowe, M. A. McCune, John A. McCarter, John McCarter, Samuel McDonald, John McCormick, Chas. Meihak, Sarah McCormick, Richard McCormick, E. V. Miles, J. A. McDonald, James A. McCarter, H. W. Mills, J. D. Morse, Samuel McCormick, E. B. Orr, Harvey M. Russ, Seth Richardson, Edwin A. Riddle, Charles Rohr, Berton Richardson, Matthew Sheppard, J. O. Shryock, Thos. H. Shryock, S. K. Starkey, C. H. Stephens, H. C. Stephens, A. C. Shultz, H. S. Starkey, L. S. Starkey, S. S. Starkey, D. W. Shryock, John Stone, E. L. Smith, F. T. Tofflemier, Wm. Taylor, Ruth Tofflemier, L. H. Tarbell, E. L. Turner, J. W. Thomas, Jane R. Williams, B. F. Wiley, Wm. J. Williams, Mary Williams, S. West, E. G. Williams, John E. White, Owen E. Williams, Adam West.

Viola, (106—64)—David A. Bryant, Augusta T. Berge, Alanson Barrs, Miss Barrs, E. L. Brown, Abram N. Brown, C. R. Bruland, A. Bywater, Archie B. Creswell, Daniel Cockle, Christian Clodt, W. V. Dixon, W. C. Davis, D. V. Davis, M. P. Dunn, C. W. Dougherty, Gustave Draeger, George Dean, Mary F. Ford, T. K. Ford, John B. Folsom, Joseph A. Ford, B. F. Gough, Gotlish Gates, John Gerkin, John M. Houk, Chas. Hein, J. T. S. Irons, C. E. Johnson, Andrew Jacobson, Louis Jonker, Ole A. Knutson, John Kuch, Peter Klink, Ebbert Kellog, H. H. Kieser, Henry Krabbenhoeft, L. D. R. Kruse, Louis Kruse, Henry Kasulka, Daniel Kieser, Fred Kieser, Geo. N. Kalb, Stewart King, Christian Krohmer, Paul Lillehaug, M. M. Modlin, Stephen H. Morse, J. C. Morse, Karl Meiback, E. H. Merville, O. W. Morehead, E. E. Nesmith, M. W. Nesmith, John M. Primmer, John Phillips, Fred Primmer, Wm. Pagenhart, N. G. Rhoades, Jesse Reynolds, Perry Reynolds, Peter A. Roti, Jas. W. Simpson, Sr., Jas. W. Simpson, Jr., John Simpson, Francis E. Simpson, Robert H. Simpson, Peter H. Schultz, Geo. A. Seekatz, Jacob N. Smith, Christoph Schultz, Wm. P. Schultz, C. A. Solberg, F. J. Shellmyer, August Schuttpelz, Chas. Shabley, A. J. Solberg, Ole J. Solberg, Ole C. Solberg, Ole Swenson, Jonas A. Tyner, Wm. D. Towner, Charles Towner, O. L. Tucker, Wm. E. Towner, Wm. Ville-

brandt, Frank Voge, Wm. P. Wilson, J. M. Winslow, Chas. Wolk, Henry Walters, Louis O. Woem, Charles Walters, C. E. Walker, O. J. Walker, Wm. Wetzell, L. G. Wilson, W. F. Zimmerman.

Blaine, (106—63)—H. H. Atwood, Auriel Antonio, Thos. O. Berg, O. G. Berg, E. O. Berg, T. W. Barrs, Jacob Buckawatz, Thomas Biggar, Fred E. Cook, Charl Christoferson, A. I. Churchill, Peter Davick, Lester Dunton, Richard Dalton, James R. Dalton, L. F. Daniel, Washington Eddy, Steffen L. Endal, Sylvanus Freeman, Christian Feistner, Leonard Feistner, D. A. Grant, W. A. Grant, Julius Hart, Henry Hart, Ole O. Hollebakken, D. R. Hale, Ole Johansen, Knute Knudson, Henry Koons, Fred Luker, Nettie Lee, Halver Mekkelson, Battis Miler, Fred W. Myer, George Mills, Miss Meyers, A. M. Matthews, Hortense McKune, Eveline E. McKune, Peter Manning, Forest Olin, Bertle Olson, Mathias Pfaler, LaFayette Pearce, Nellie E. Parker, C. W. Parker, Andrew Peterson, August Pauloski, Emma Pauloski, Ira Purdy, Richard Price, John Parquet, G. W. Rychman, Antoin Rygnski, Fred K. Strasser, Wm. Stiner, Joseph Steichen, Jacob Stromer, Mary Shannon, Henry W. Scott, Kittie Shannon, Ole R. Solberg, Ole T. Soarem, Sam K. Swenson, Andrew O. Swenson, Herman Schraeder, James Stoddard, John Steiner, W. R. Thomas, Mrs. M. M. Teachout, M. L. Thomas, Jonas Velle, Wm. Wusson, Bottis Wecker, John P. Wolf, John M. Wheeler, Peter Wolf, Franz H. Wams, Charles C. Wright, G. H. Waldron, Calvin M. Young, M. W. Young, D. W. Young, I. A. Young, John Zimmerman, John Steichen, Nicholas Steichen.

Franklin, (107—63)—Magnus Anderson, G. T. Adkinson, Joshua Adkinson, Perry Bush, A. J. Bevans, Martin Baker, I. J. Black, D. Boge, G. O. Bergelian, Andrew Berg, W. I. Bellows, D. P. Burnison, George Bryon, W. N. Brown, Joseph Bouton, Frank Bush, D. M. Black, S. W. Boyd, Henry Beogeelee, Hugh Confry, R. H. Chase, C. M. Clark, S. D. Catlon, Joseph Doctor, A. B. Dalrymple, C. G. Evans, H. L. Evans, Jacob Etzel, Josephine Englestad, A. L. Eager, Hiram Freeman, R. W. Foster, L. E. Franklin, Edward Fitzgibbon, Charles Gurte, Henry Goll, Albert Gunderson, J. M. Hardin, J. W. Harden, Knute N. Hovey, Larome Hessdorfer, George Hodges, Anna A. Hoff, Andrew Hessdorfer, Z. T. Harmon, Geo. Hessdorfer, Wm. J. Houmes, Moses N. Hefte, John Hautenbourg, R. Hessdorfer, Frank Janoush, Wm. Karril, Henry Kni-eriem, John Kogel, John Klemm, Ole C. Lindebak, Chas. E. LaRue, Lars Larson, A. Maldren, John Marshall, John McLean, F. W. Martin, David McDowall, B. R. McCaul, Wm. McCaul, Ira McCaul, J. A. McCaul, Gust Newman, Robert Nisbet, A. M. Nettleton, H. D. Newton, C. Nettleton, Herbjorn Ostenson, Theo. Offerman, George O'Brien, Walter P. Pierce, Wm. M. Posey, Elijah Purdy, Mrs. W. Pinkham.

Henry M. Posey, S. D. Ray, I. P. Ray, Iver H. Refvrem, E. M. Smith, Olena Solberg, James Susha, Michael Selz, Edwin S. Starkey, L. W. Surman, Henry Sunkler, John J. Sime, Charles Thorpe, Margaret Trotter, P. T. Varnum, Thomas M. Whiffin, J. C. Wallace, H. D. Wihte, H. A. White, Minnie J. Whiffin, Jas. G. Young, James H. Boyd, J. M. Brown.

Alpena, (106—63)—Wm. H. Arne, William Ault, Virgil P. Arne, Syver P. Amenson, Albert Ahart, H. M. Arne, W. L. Arnold, J. Barnes, John Busse, Wm. Brandenburg, George Brevier, Allen N. Brayton, I. W. Black, Chas. Bechtold, Fred Busse, T. Linus Blank, Moses D. Blank, Ray Barber, Wm. Bechtold, C. P. Canon, J. A. Calhoun, A. N. Canon, Wm. S. Corothers, J. E. Cook, James Conlin, L. W. Castleman, Geo. D. Canon, John Campbell, A. B. Davenport, Richard Davenport, Leopold Dietz, Wesley Davis, James W. Eastman, Charles Eastman, Daniel Eastman, E. M. Eastman, R. J. Eastman, Wm. Forshire, Thomas J. Forbes, R. P. Flagg, J. O. Gray, Wm. Girton, H. M. Hall, Joseph P. Harding, Chas. G. Haskins, Levi Hamilton, John A. Houmes, Fred Heller, Mathias Hedstrom, D. S. Kellogg, Daniel Kint, Henry E. King, W. A. Linn, L. N. Looms, Chas. E. Moore, M. M. Moran, Joseph H. May, James Moran, Hugh J. Moran, Peter Milroy, B. F. Miller, Patrick McDonald, Joseph A. Moore, E. F. Makemson, Dan A. McCoy, Ole Onstad, Andrew Onstad, Mary Onstad, Betsey Onstad, Morgan Onstad, Frank B. Phillips, Isaac Pierce, B. Quirk, Frank Quirk, Daniel F. Royer, John Smith, Council Sparks, D. N. Smith, Thos. Sheffield, Matt Suerth, Gustave Scheel, Fred M. Scherner, And. Sundberg, August Scheel, Joseph Terrell, Warren G. Tubbs, O. F. Woodruff, John R. Woodruff, John Woods, Daniel Webber, John Wallace, Edson Whitney, Frank O. Wheelihan, M. J. Wolcott, J. M. Webber, C. M. Yegge, F. W. Whitney.

The following is a list of the first settlers in the various townships as nearly as we have been able to gather from the memory of the oldest inhabitants:

Logan—W. S. Combs, Jr.

Crow—Abel Scyoc.

Marlaur—J. J. Groub.

Harmony—O. O. England.

Pleasant—B. F. Crittenden.

Crow Lake—Albert M. Allyn.

Anina—Joseph Motl.

Media—Levi Hain.

Chery—Chas. Nicholson.

Dale—C. D. Brown.

Wessington Springs—Ogden Barrett.

Viola—Ole C. Solberg.
 Blaine—Joseph Steichen.
 Franklin—Wm. M. Posey.
 Alpena—Wm. H. Arne.

Chapter 11.

While the villages of Waterbury and Sulphur Springs were striving for supremacy as the commercial and political center, settlers were locating among the hills and valleys of the adjoining townships.

Among them were citizens and professional men of all kinds. In 108—66 there were in 1883 nineteen graduates from eastern colleges, and this township was no different from the balance of the county. Then there were carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, harness makers, printers, painters, who were able to bring to the new settlements all the comforts and conveniences of older countries, as fast as their mechanical skill could be used.

Townships 108—67, and 107—66 were unsurveyed in the spring of 1883. Yet the squatters were able by the means of stakes and corners of the adjoining townships to select their claims. There were but few cases of two persons claiming the same tracts of land. The land laws of the United States divide a section into forty-acre tracts, which is the smallest legal sub-division. A squatter could only hold 40 acres by virtue of his settlement. Still the instances were rare where any portion of a quarter section was claimed by more than one settler. One instance of this kind occurred, however, in 108—67. F. M. Cooley, of Sulphur Springs, made improvements on the SE of 35, and Joseph Roberts settled himself on the same quarter. Robert's shanty was on a line on the northwest forty, while Cooley's was in the valley on another forty. Both stuck to the claim until the surveyor's plat was filed, when Cooley went to the land office at Mitchell first, and made entry for the NE, SE and SW of the disputed quarter and also for the SE forty of the SW 1—4 of the section. This left Roberts with the northwest forty acres and no land adjoining that he considered desirable. He therefore abandoned the tract.

In this township (108—67) settlement began on the 6th day of May, when J. J. Groub and B. F. Marlar, both from Missouri, squatted on their claims. They came from the same county in Missouri, but were strangers until they met while looking for land in that township in Jer-

auld county. Groub settled on sections 19 and 20 and Marlar on the NW of 4. They were soon followed by W. S. Scofield and his sons Frank, Mark and George; John and A. T. Hudson, J. M. Corbin, the Bakers, and Zacharia Groub and his daughters, all of them taking claims near each other. In section 12 Mr. E. Olcutt made his improvements in the forepart of June. In Mr. Olcutt's house, his little daughter Fanny, was born in the month of August of that year, being the first child born in that township.

Among the people who came to Jerauld county in 1883, were the Vessey brothers, who arrived at White Lake on the 17th day of May. They immediately began to transport their goods to the SE of section 12—107—66, upon which R. S. Vessey established the rights of a squatter. They arrived at their destination on the morning of the 18th of May and began the construction of a "claim shanty." By night the structure was completed and the men were housed in one end of the building and the horses in the other. The season that followed was a strenuous one. One hundred and thirty days were put in on the road between the claim and the town of White Lake. Though the air was full of politics, the future governor of the state was too busy getting established in his home to give the subject any attention. By fall a new house had been erected, a horse stable built and sheep shed, 18 feet wide by 240 feet long had been completed for the 600 head of sheep brought out from Wisconsin by Mr. S. H. Albert in August.

On the morning of April 5th of that year a gentleman with his wife and children and his sister engaged a team at Plankinton to take them to Wessington Springs. They made the start early for they did not wish to hurry on the way—and they did not. About an hour after the horse team started a man left the station with a yoke of oxen, following the same road. Mile after mile the two teams traveled along the wearisome way. Other teams came up behind the ox team, turned out, passed with a cheery word to the driver, and soon after drove by the horse team. The distance between the ox team and the horses grew perceptibly shorter. The boy driving the horses began to slap the animals with the lines and whip and say "giddap." After a while the man with the ox team turned his cattle to the side of the road and for some time the two traveled side by side. Then the oxen began to draw ahead, and at length turned into the road and went on. In vain the gentleman riding behind the horses suggested to the boy that he might hurry a little, and in vain the boy slapped and cried "giddap." The ox team kept gaining and finally disappeared in the distance. After dark the horse team arrived at the residence of Rev. J. G. Campbell on the SW of 17—107—64.

Mr. Campbell came out and inquired who they were and what they

wanted. Being informed that the party consisted of Rev. S. F. Huntley and family on their way to the residence of Rev. A. B. Smart, he took his lantern and piloted them across the gully and over the hills until the light in Smart's house could be seen and there the weary passengers alighted about 10 o'clock in the evening.

In June following Mr. Huntley built a sod house on the NW of 4—107—66 and with his family became a squatter on the "unsurveyed." Although in after years he served his county with distinction in the constitutional convention and state senate, he never forgot the wearisome journey from Plankinton to Wessington Springs when he "just moved into" Jerauld county.

On the 11th day of April, 1883, five men stopped near where the townships of Media, Anina, Crow Lake and Pleasant are located. One of them was Theodore Dean, who came in a covered wagon, which he placed on the SW of 30—107—65, and in which he lived until in the fall, when he built a shanty. Another of the party was J. T. Ferguson, who at once built a shanty with a board roof on the NE of 6—106—65, where he lived and still lives. The shanty, but built with a shingle roof, is still on the place. John Conley, another of the number, built a shanty on the NE of 2—106—66, while his brother, Joseph Conley, made his improvements on the SW of 26—107—66. John W. Todd, the other member of the party, had brought his family with him and put up a tent for a dwelling and lived in that during the summer on the SE of 25—108—66. His wife, Mrs. Minnie Todd, was the first woman resident of that township. Dean is one of the commissioners of the county, and Ferguson is the clerk of courts.

Nearly all the land in 107—66 was soon taken and the people began the process of getting acquainted. This is soon accomplished in frontier settlements, where each must help the other.

Samuel Marlenee, a skillful carpenter, who settled on the SW of 5 was in great demand in assisting to build the shanties that sprung up as by magic everywhere. So fast they grew that the next spring Mr. Huntley from his residence on the NW of 4, counted 84 dwellings. It is impossible to give particular mention of each settler, but we must refer the reader to the list already published.

In August the people had become so well settled that they began to take steps toward a more organized condition of society. On the 5th of that month a Sunday school and church service was commenced at the residence of Chauncey Barber in the southern part of the county. A minister from White Lake was present and preached to the settlers. Mr. Barber was elected superintendent of the Sunday school, O. E.

Gaffin, assistant; T. H. Null of 106—66, was made secretary and Mrs. Moulton, also of 106—66, treasurer.

In October, 1883, the government established a mail route for a weekly service between White Lake and Elmer with a postoffice at the residence of G. W. Stetson with that gentleman as postmaster and another at Crow Lake with Albert M. Allyon as postmaster.

The Stetson postoffice was kept in a dugout on the NE of 34—107—66, which was Mr. Stetson's dwelling place.

The mail carrier over the new line was Mr. R. Y. Hazard of 106—66; his compensation being \$312.00 for performing that service from October 15th, 1883, to June 30th, 1884.

The mail facilities for the new county had now been very much increased. A line was established during the summer running from Miller to Kimball via Sulphur Springs, with George N. Price as carrier; another from Elmer to Miller with A. B. Smart as carrier. The Plankinton line was extended to Huron and the service increased to twice a week on the first of March, 1883. Jack Sutley, who had carried the mail between Plankinton and Elmer from the time the line was established July 1, 1882, continued to drive that route until April 3, 1883, when he sold it to Bert Orr, who was then living at Plankinton. The offices in the southern part of this line in Jerauld county were Parsons, Gordon and Sullivan.

In November a postoffice was located on the NE of 7—107—65, named Templeton with J. N. Cross as postmaster. This office was supplied by the Elmer and White Lake line.

The line from Mitchell to Fort Thompson was still continued, but the service was anything but satisfactory.

During the summer of 1883 the people of 108—66, among whom were a goodly number of Quakers, progressed as rapidly as their neighbors on the south. Nearly all the land was taken, and a large acreage broken up. Along in September or October C. G. Smith, A. G. Snyder, William Marshall, I. N. Rich, O. J. Marshall, Peter Wilfring and C. W. Mills organized a Sunday school at the residence of the latter on the SW of 15. This organization is still in existence. At first the meetings alternated between Mr. Mills' home and that of Mr. Wilfring on section 22, accompanied by preaching by Mr. and Mrs. Huntley and William Marshall.

Chapter 12.

One morning in the latter part of April, 1882, a party consisting of John and Peter Primmer and W. B. Wilson set out from the south part of 106—64 to meet Fred Kieser at Huron, who was coming over the C. & N. W. with 300 or 400 head of sheep from Iowa. They arrived at Huron that evening and found Kieser there with the sheep unloaded and ready for an early start in the morning. He had brought with him a few rods of portable fencing that he put on a wagon to take along for use as a coral at night while on the way from the station to his claim in section 35—106—64. On the wagon with the fencing he put the provisions for the party during the trip.

At Huron they met Charles Walters who was also going to his claim in section 22—106—64. Walters, as a matter of company, decided to go along with Kieser's party.

All being ready the sheep were started in charge of Mr. Kieser, Ben Wilson and John Primmer, leaving Pete Primmer to follow on with the team, fencing and provisions.

It was at the time of year when the new grass was just starting and the sheep were inclined to straggle a good deal. They were finally brought out of the town and started in a southwesterly direction. The drivers had gone on with the flock of sheep until near noon, but the team with the fencing and food for dinner did not appear. Kieser became anxious about the missing wagon and driver and rode back to the town to see what was the trouble while Ben and John moved on with the straggling herd.

Back in Huron Pete leisurely put the team to the wagon, knowing that a flock of sheep move slowly, and thinking he would soon overtake them. When everything was ready he drove out of town on the road he supposed the sheep had taken. In those days the trails ran everywhere without regard to section line, for there was not a fence between Huron and Plankinton. Pete got on to one of these trails, or roads, and followed on, expecting every moment to come in sight of the moving herd. As he did not come up with the drivers as soon as he thought to, he concluded they had gone faster than usual and whipped up the team. On and on he went, following in a direction toward home as nearly as he could judge, but no sheep could he find.

Mr. Kieser reached Huron in search of the team and wagon and learned that Pete had gone after the herd. The thought at once occurred to him that the team was on the wrong road and immediately set off—on another road of course—to overtake Pete and bring him around to the boys who he knew by this time must be getting hungry. Away he

went, mile after mile, but no Pete could he see. At length he gave up the search and returned to the herd and the hungry drivers. All the afternoon they kept the sheep moving on in the direction of their destination, constantly scanning the surrounding prairie in the hope that Pete would appear with the food and the coral fence.

Just before dark they came to a claim shanty and camped for the night. The people who occupied the shanty were hospitable and the party obtained a good supper and then took turns through the night in herding the sheep. The next morning after a hearty breakfast the flock was again put in motion and the long wearisome journey continued—seeming doubly long for there was not another dwelling on the way. Still the missing wagon did not come in sight and with nothing to eat or drink, except the water in the lake beds that they passed, the boys and men trudged on till night. About sundown they arrived at the bank of a small lake west of where Alpena now stands and again camped. The air was chilly and no shelter to be seen.

From among the things in his wagon Mr. Walters brought out a single blanket, a spade and a loaf of bread. The loaf was divided among them and then with the spade they dug a hole about a foot deep and six feet square. Into this they piled a lot of dry grass, that with their pocket knives they cut from the lake bed, and all but one lay down under cover of the one blanket to get what rest and sleep they could. The one stayed up to watch the sheep for two hours when he changed places with one of those in the hole. They slept but little, but got some rest. It was tiresome to lie in one position, but were packed so closely that all must turn at the same time. Lying "spoon fashion," when one would get tired he would cry out, "prepare to spoon, spoon," all would turn.

But the longest night has a morning and the longest journey has an end. At daylight on the first day of May they were up and on the journey again. That night they reached home and glad enough to get there. Pete had arrived before them. He had wandered about on the prairie in search of the flock until all hope of finding it was gone and then, after spending one night in the wagon, drove home.

On the 31st day of May, 1882, a party composed of James O. Gray, Edson Whitney, J. Bridgeman, J. P. Harding and Mrs. Roxy A. Bartlett, mother-in-law of Bridgeman and Harding, crossed the east line of Aurora county near the southeast corner of section 1—107—63. Mrs. Bartlett had previously filed a preemption claim on the SW of 30—108—63, and Mr. Harding had placed the same kind of a filing on the north-west quarter of the same section. While in Mitchell to get lumber and her household furniture she and her son-in-law, met Gray and Whitney, who were going up the James River Valley to look for land. An ar-

rangement was made with Mr. Gray, who had a good span of horses, to take a load to the Bartlett claim.

Soon after crossing the county line they arrived at the residence of W. M. Posey, who with his family, had located a few days before on the NE of 2 in 107—63. The Poseys were then the only family in what is now Franklin township. After a few minutes spent in greetings and inquiries the party passed on taking a course west by north. On the NW of 33—108—63, Mr. Gray made a slight improvement, as notice to any who might come after him that he had selected that quarter as his claim.

At the SW of 32—108—63 Mr. Whitney made his selection and the party went on to the spot, where Mrs. Bartlett wanted her claim shanty built. It was afternoon when they reached the Bartlett claim and the weather indicated a storm. A temporary shelter was constructed for the household goods and in it the whole party took refuge from the rain that came with the night.

The number of settlers in townships 107 and 108—63 was small at that time. Mr. Posey with his family was busy getting a rude shelter on section 2—107—63, and in digging a well close by. The shanty was 14x16 of rough boards with a shed roof. The covering of the shanty was made of 16 foot boards which projected about 18 inches over the north side. The well was dug down to a depth of about 8 feet, but not finding water they concluded to use the hole as a place in which to keep milk and butter. For convenience in getting out and into this improvised outdoor cellar, some steps were dug from one side down into it.

In the Posey household at that time there were eleven persons and as it was impossible to make separate beds for all one long bunk was built across one end of the shanty which served as a brace for the walls and a sleeping place for the whole family.

On the SE of 5—107—63, a gentleman named I. P. Ray had built a commodious house one and one-half story high, but his family had not yet arrived.

In sections 3 and 10 of 108—63 W. H. Arne and Richard Davenport had located, while Albert Ahart had built a house on the SE of 29, and August Scheel on the SE of 32. The last two settlers had put up their buildings in February.

The coming of the party mentioned at the beginning of this chapter was a welcome addition to the settlement. Mr. Gray had provided himself with a tent and in it he and his family took up their abode.

By helping each other all were soon comfortably housed in their temporary quarters.

The 24th of June was an intensely hot day and the sun set in a bank of clouds that threatened a severe storm before morning. Each of the

settlers kept close watch of the weather until toward midnight the clouds disappeared and all retired to rest.

About two o'clock in the morning a terrific wind storm struck the sleeping settlement. Ahart's house was literally crushed to splinters. The roof of Mrs. Bartlett's house was scattered over the prairie and the family exposed to the rain and hail that soon followed. The Gray tent was blown from its fastenings and whirled away in the darkness. The rain and hail began to come and getting a wide board that had been used by the family as a table, Mr. and Mrs. Gray held it in a slanting position over the terrified children, until the violence of the storm was past.

Mr. Ray, whose family had come on a few days before felt the house yielding to the fury of the wind and catching up the children he and his wife rushed for the protection of the sod stable that stood near. When about half way between the two buildings he heard the house behind him crush to pieces and by the flare of the lightning he saw the roof of the sod stable go off with the wind. He stopped and for a minute braced against the wind while he thought what best to do. By the light of the thunder bolts he saw that the roof of the house had settled down onto the lower floor and seemed to be intact and holding together. It appeared to be the safest place and under it he hustled the family.

When the Posey family heard the storm coming they ran to the well that had been used for an outdoor cellar and crowded into that for shelter from the wind. The roof of the shanty soon disappeared and then the rain and hail came in torrents. The steps down into the cellar made a ditch for the water and soon the well was filling. They helped each other out of the hole and then ran to the walls of the shanty for protection. The bunk had braced the walls sufficiently to keep them upright and under the bunk the whole family gathered and remained until daylight.

In the morning the settlers hurried about from one family to another to ascertain what damage had been done and who if any had been hurt. It was found that no one had been seriously injured, but the stock had been scattered. Nothing in the history of the county is more firmly fixed in the memory of the settlers of '82 than the storm in the night of June 24.

Nearly all of the settlers put in a few acres of sod crop and gathered a good harvest. In September a prairie fire swept over the settlement destroying a stable for Mr. Kellogg, who had settled on the NW of 31—108—63, and burned all the hay that Gray had made. Mr. Posey lost a part of his hay and R. J. Eastman lost all.

Chapter 13.

Early in the spring of 1882, Joseph and John Steichen located in the central part of township 106—63, in sections 20 and 21, put up sod houses and made the beginning of what have since become some of the best farms in the county. They were soon followed by Andrew and Samuel Swenson, who settled in sections 5 and 9. These four settlers were in time to break up a few acres of prairie and each raised a fair crop of sod corn.

Later in the season, J. P. Parquet, C. C. Wright, Richard Dalton, John M. Wheeler and Thos. Biggar found land that suited them and became early pioneers of that township. All these settlers except Mr. Wright started their Dakota settlements with sod buildings.

The winter of 1882—83 was about an average Dakota winter, and the pioneers found plenty to occupy their time.

In February, 1883, Rev. J. G. Campbell, who was hauling building material from Mitchell to his farm near Wessington Springs, was caught by a snow storm and stayed over Sabbath with Mr. Wright. It was suggested that religious services be held and notice was accordingly sent out through the neighborhood. A few of the settlers gathered in response to the call and the first sermon in township 106—63 was preached by Mr. Campbell in Mr. Wright's house from the following text:

"A bruised reed shall he not break and the smoking flax shall he not quench. He shall bring forth judgment unto truth."—Isa. 42:3.

Geo. W. Ryckman came to 106—63 in April, 1883, and built a frame shanty on the NW of 5. At that time there was the residence of but one actual settler in sight from Ryckman's dwelling which stood on a little knoll. On the 4th of July folling quite a number of the newcomers gathered at Ryckman's to celebrate the day. Then, from the place of celebration, 72 residences were in sight. A few were frame shanties, many were of sod and some were "dug-outs."

One morning in the summer of 1883 a lady entered the Liverpool office of one of the great Trans-Atlantic steamship companies and bought a ticket for herself and six children—all boys—to Huron, D. T. Her luggage consisted of eleven large boxes packed almost to bursting. The trip was a nerve-racking one, with all the boys, each one curious to see every part of the ship. But the voyage was made without incident worthy of note until the ship, the "City of Berlin," arrived in the harbor of New York.

There the customs officers, the terror of all ocean travelers, came aboard. Now there is as much difference between revenue officers, as there is between civilized people and barbarians. Some would roughly

break open a box or bail of goods, dump out the contents, scatter the articles about on the floor and after making a mark on the box to indicate that it contained no dutiable things, leave the mess for the owner to repack as best he or she could.

The English lady stood for some time watching the officers as they emptied and ransacked the bundles, bags, boxes and trunks of the other passengers. What would she do if they emptied all her luggage and spread it about like that! She thought she could never get it stowed again. She soon noticed the difference in the methods of the government agents and picking out a man with a kindly face she approached him and holding out the keys to her packages told him she was in a hurry, that she had six little boys to look after, and wouldn't he please inspect her goods.

"Madam," he said, "do all these packages belong to you?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well," he said musingly, "you do not look like a smuggler, so just open this box first. Now put your hand down on the inside clear to the bottom and pass it around the box. There now lock it up again and we will peep into the others." So they went through all the boxes, the officer putting a chalk mark on each one as she locked it. In a few hours they were on the train with no more danger of the little fellows falling overboard, and if she could keep them together until they reached their destination she would think herself lucky indeed.

On the third day out from New York they arrived at Huron and made inquiry for a gentleman named Reed, to whom they had been directed. Mr. Reed being found, for whom the lady's husband was at work she requested that gentleman to please inform Mr. Thomas Sheffield that his wife and family had arrived. The husband soon appeared, and a few weeks later all were settled on their homestead, the SW of 22—108—63.

At the residence of August Scheel on the NE of 32—108—63 a daughter was born on the 12th of December, 1882, and all the newcomers, who settled in that vicinity, must go and see the first native born in the township. The little lady grew to womanhood in that township and now bears the name of Mrs. William Ahart.

The spring of 1883 brought many new settlers to the townships in range 63. All was hustle and hurry, the land must be selected and a trip made to the Mitchell land office to make a filing. Then lumber and other material brought for the claim buildings, for though the buildings were made of sod stripped from the prairie, the roofs, doors and window frames must be made of wood.

These primitive structures answered the purpose on the prairie that

the log houses did in the forest settlements of the wooded states farther east.

In May, 1883, T. L. Blank and his sister, Sadie, (now Mrs. L. W. Castleman of Alpena) arrived from Iowa. Mr. Blank at once built a sod house on his claim, the SW of 27—108—63. Other settlers had come and more were arriving every day. There were a number of children in the neighborhood, and Miss Blank determined to organize a school, using her brother's sod residence for a school house. This school was commenced about the 10th of June, 1883, and in it were gathered Elva, Mary, Ella and Clara Eastman, Ira and Jessie Posey.

About the same time that Miss Blank began her day school a Sunday school was organized at the residence of Chas. Eastman which was named Plainview Union Sunday School. Mr. Blank, who had been most energetic in its organization, was made superintendent, and Mrs. Chas. Eastman organist.

About the same time Liberty Sunday School was organized at the residence of I. P. Ray in 107—63.

Religious services, conducted by Rev. A. B. Smart, were held in connection with the Sunday schools.

Chapter 14.

In the early autumn of 1883 some of the people of township 108—65 (Chery) determined to provide school privileges for their children. Mr. M. E. Small furnished a building, located on his homestead, the SE of 22, and Miss Sarah Johnson was employed as teacher. The school continued for several months and was attended by the following named pupils: Chas. Miller, May Miller, Lucy Hill, Phoebe Hill, Ole Olson, Joe Thornton, Mary Johnson, Maggie Johnson.

The building in which this school was taught was afterward used by Mr. Small for a granary and still is in use on the same farm which is now owned by Mr. R. W. Johnson.

The teacher, Miss Johnson, afterward taught several terms in the public schools of the township and then married Mr. Owen Williams of Wessington Springs township. She died near Wessington Springs a few years later.

In township 108—65 occurred the first death in Jerauld county. A little child of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bolton died after a short illness and was buried on their homestead, the NW quarter of section 32. The only

cemetery in the county at that time was on the SW of 29—107—67, near Sulphur Springs. That was too far away and so, with the sympathetic aid of the neighbors the little one was laid near the prairie home and there it rests today.

On the 25th day of July, 1883, Mr. Jas. F. Bolton, who owned the NE of 31—108—65, employed Mr. H. J. Wallace, a surveyor, and platted a townsite, which he named "Monclova." He afterward changed the name to "Bolton," but he never recorded the plat nor sold any lots.

Benjamin Drake took the SE of 6—108—65 as a pre-emption claim in the spring of 1883. He put up a frame shanty and purchased a breaking plow, which nearly exhausted his ready cash. He raised a few acres of flax and by the first of September was in shape to go comfortably through the winter. But that morning he met with a disaster that changed the whole aspect of affairs for him. He had risen early as usual and built a fire in his cook stove. He then took the water pail and went to the well, which he had dug about forty rods from the house. As he started back with the pail of water a dense volume of smoke at the shanty told him it was on fire. The old man hurried as fast as possible, but before he reached the building the flames were bursting from the roof and sides. He lost all his outfit and had to build a sod house in which to spend the winter. He and his family worked hard for several years, but finally gave it up and moved to Minnesota, where they still live.

In the western part of 107—65 a Sunday school was organized with 26 members at the residence of Mr. Kendall on section 5, May 27th, 1883. M. D. Crow was elected superintendent, Mr. Kendall, assistant superintendent, Mrs. E. L. DeLine, secretary and treasurer, and R. S. Vessey, librarian. This organization was kept up until fall when it was merged in the Union Sunday school, held at the residence of Mr. J. N. Cross on the NE of 7.

With the coming of spring in 1883 Wessington Springs began to show signs of life.

The territorial legislature that closed on the 9th of March had passed a bill enabling the people located in the townships numbered 106, 107 and 108 of Aurora county to make a new county of the townships described therein.

At once interest centered about the new town located at the big spring. The few residences in the vicinity were thronged with settlers and prospectors. The dwellings of Hiram Blowers, R. S. Bateman and A. B. Smart, being nearest the townsite, became almost per force, regular boarding houses.

C. W. McDonald and W. I. Bateman formed a partnership under the firm name of McDonald & Bateman, and began the publication of a

weekly newspaper, named "The Wessington Springs Herald." The first issue published on the 24th day of March was printed in the office of the Aurora County Standard, then located at Plankinton. The next two issues were also printed in Plankinton, and then the Herald printing office was located in a room in R. S. Bateman's house a few rods south of the Wessington Springs townsite. The first issue printed in the new location was run through the press on the 28th day of April, 1883, and contained 15 quires of paper.

According to the law creating the new county, it could not take effect until the people residing in the proposed county should say by their votes that they desired the new political organization with the name as fixed by the legislature. The vote was taken on the 17th day of April and Jerauld county was born that day.

There has never been a time when the Dakotan has not felt an interest in politics. At this election one of the polling places was at the residence of I. P. Ray, in Franklin township. The result of the vote in that precinct was carried by L. W. Castleman that night to the residence of H. J. Wallace in Chery township.

On the day before the first issue of the Herald was printed in Mr. Bateman's house, a real estate firm by the name of Reed & Akin, began the construction of an office building on the south side of Main street, a short distance west of where the State Bank building now stands. It was moved across to the north side of the street a few weeks later and occupied by Drake & Magee, after Reed & Akin left the town, which occurred about the first of June. The Reed & Akin office was the first building to remain permanently on the townsite and at the time of its construction it was the only building on the original plat of the town. It now stands back of the office building of Ausman & Wallace and is used by that firm as a private office.

A few days later Mr. A. R. Powell, then a squatter in township 107—66, hauled a load of lumber from Plankinton for Lew Hoes and a Mr. Phillips, who formed a partnership and with the load of lumber erected a rough board shanty, with a board shed roof. The building was 16 feet square, and stood a little north and east of where the Oliver Hotel now stands.

In this building Hoes & Phillips opened a stock of groceries, which had been brought by Powell with the lumber for the building. This was the beginning of the commercial life of Wessington Springs.

A day or two after Hoes & Phillips put up their grocery "store," Mr. A. J. Wentworth built a shanty about where the stable of the M. E. parsonage is located. This building remained on the townsite but a

short time. Mr. Wentworth moved it to his claim on the NE of 15—107—65.

During the same month (April) the townsite company at that time composed of C. S. Burr, of Mitchell, and D. A. Scott, of Rockford, Ia., began active work to set the town on the way to a vigorous growth. A hotel was a first necessity and they commenced bringing lumber for that purpose from Plankinton, then the nearest railroad point. It was a long haul, the roads were bad, and no bridges between Plankinton and the Springs. The worst place on the road was at the crossing of the west branch of the Firesteel creek in Aurora county. The water was high and the creek bed soft.

To remedy this difficulty Mr. Scott brought out some timbers and planks and built a bridge over the stream. That was a great convenience while it lasted, but a few days after the bridge was constructed a heavy rain flooded the stream and the bridge disappeared completely and forever so far as Mr. Scott was concerned.

About the last of April a couple of gentlemen arrived from Ludlow, Vermont, to look at the new town with a view to building a hotel. Mr. Scott at once offered them the lumber that he had brought, at what it cost him, and also offered to make them a present of the tree lots on the corner where the First National Bank now stands. The offer was accepted and work on the foundation of the hotel commenced at once.

By the first of May the cellar was ready for the stone masons to begin laying wall. Quite a crowd was standing about when Mr. Mark Scofield rolled the first stone to its place in a bed of mortar and one of the bystanders exclaimed, "By Halifax! that's the first stone laid in mortar in the county of Jerauld." From that time the workmen rapidly pushed the work to completion.

On the 13th of April Mr. R. S. Bateman, who had been in Wisconsin soliciting funds for the erection of the church building, returned to the Springs and reported a successful trip. The matter being called to the attention of the townsite company, Messrs. Burr & Scott at once contributed five hundred dollars towards building the new church and also promised the society a block of lots upon which to build the edifice, a promise that was fulfilled as soon as the preparations were completed.

April 22, 1883, two young men, quiet and unpretentious in demeanor, came into the little village at the foot of the hills, and soon became a part of the business life of the community. One of them, Mr. F. Drake, remained but a short time. The other, Mr. E. L. Smith, has lived in Westington Springs more years than any other man. No man's handiwork

has been felt in the now thriving city, to a greater extent than his. A carpenter by trade, Mr. Smith has been one of the few indispensable citizens of the place.

Chapter 15.

May 5th, 1883, Mr. T. R. Dunn, of the firm of Dunn & Hackett, arrived in Wessington Springs to prepare for opening a real estate office. Mr. Hackett remained in Mitchell a few days to close up some business he had there and to get a supply of blanks and others things essential for the office. In a few days the new firm procured a building that had been erected a short distance east of town and moved it onto one of the lots where Shull's drug store now stands. On May 19th their professional card first appeared in the Wessington Springs Herald. It was the beginning of an office maintained by Mr. Hackett for a number of years. The building was afterward moved across the street and now occupies a place in the rear of Hawthorne's restaurant.

About a month later, June 16th, 1883, Drake & Magee also opened a law and real estate office in the building put up by Reed & Akin.

Mr. Phillips remained in the grocery business with Lew Hoes but a short time and about the first of May sold his interest, which was small, to C. H. and H. C. Stephens. The new firm conducted the business under the name of Hoes & Stephens for a few days and then Mr. Hoes being compelled to go to Iowa for an indefinite stay, he sold his share to his partners, who continued the business for several months as H. C. & C. H. Stephens.

In the month of May Stephens Bros. began the construction of a store building, one and one-half stories high, that occupied their time during the following two months. By the fourth of July their building was so far along that they began selling goods over rough board counters. The upper story was made into one room, which was used as a public hall.

When Stephens' Hall was completed the church services were held in it instead of at Mrs. Riddle's house on section 8. Until the building of the First M. E. church the room over Stephens' store was the place for all public gatherings.

Immediately after Dunn & Hackett placed their office on the south side of Main street Sam Arnold and Will Housel began to put up a store

building on one of the vacant lots west of the present site of the State Bank.

During the first week in June, 1883, E. B. Orr, who had purchased of Jack Sutley the stage line from Plankinton to Huron, began the erection of a livery stable in Wessington Springs near the present location of the residence of Geo. N. Price. While Mr. Orr was building his stable Silas Kinney was at work on a store and residence which still stands opposite Short's notion store. The Kinney building was completed and a flour and feed store opened in it the first week in July.

In the meantime work on the hotel was being rapidly pushed and on the 4th day of July the building was opened to the public. The following is an accurate description of the well known hostelry:

The main building was two full stories in height and was 24—60 feet in size. Above the second story was an attic, in which beds and cots were placed for use when the rooms below were all occupied, which was generally the case. The second story was divided into single and double sleeping rooms, so that with the use of beds and cots in the attic about seventy-five persons could be cared for at one time. At the rear end of the main building was the kitchen, 12x24 feet in size. In the southeast corner of the main building and adjoining the kitchen, was the dining room and fronting on Main street was the ladies' sitting room, 11x20. The hotel office, 11x30, was in the northwest corner. The hall and stairway was located between the office and the ladies' sitting room, with doors leading into both and opening onto the Main street through the front door. A side door opening on to 2nd street was near the northwest corner of the office room. Two more sleeping rooms, designed for the use of the proprietors, were situated west of the dining room and south of the office. The hotel was heated with P. P. Stewart hard coal burners in the office and sitting room.

Connected with the hotel by a covered passage, in true New England style, was the hotel barn, 22x50, with an addition for stable room, 14x30.

While the hotel was being built Mr. Applegate, of Mitchell, put up and inclosed the building in later years known as the Carlton House.

In the month of June and the forepart of July the proprietors of the Wessington Springs Herald had a force of carpenters at work putting up the building used afterward by them as a printing office and bank. July 21st the Herald was issued from its new office for the first time.

Nearly all of the lumber used in the construction of the various buildings in Wessington Springs and vicinity was brought with teams from Plankinton. In many places, where the trail crossed the streams and draws it was in dangerous condition. Especially was this the case at the

crossing of what was then termed "The Long Gully" on the east line of section 18—107—64.

On the 15th of May, 1883, Mr. H. Blowers, who had been elected a road supervisor before Jerauld county was born, called on the neighbors and spent the day in rolling stone into the streams and making it passable. That was probably the first "road work" done in the new county.

About the first of June word was received that the lumber for the church had arrived at Wessington station on the C. & N. W. Ry. Hiram Blowers and R. S. Bateman at once went to that place to receive and unload the material. They met a great many people going to or from the station, and among them Mr. Jefferson Sickler, then living at Wessington Springs. Mr. Sickler had with him a wagon and a yoke of oxen and they induced him to haul a load of the lumber home for them. That was the first load of material hauled for the church in Wessington Springs. On the 5th of June Blowers and Bateman came in with two more loads. The church building committee then got together and selected the block upon which the Willard Hotel is situated as the site for the church. There the lumber was unloaded and preparations made to commence work on the foundation, but at the request of the townsite company the location was changed to the block south and to it the society received a deed from the company.

It was a long ways to haul the lumber and the roads, in places, almost impassable. Yet the frame of the structure was up and inclosed in July and on the 26th of August the cornerstone was laid. The ceremony of laying the stone was conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. W. P. Jordan, assisted by Rev. J. G. Campbell. The sermon was preached by Rev. W. H. Hoadley of Huron.

A "mite society" had been organized by the ladies of the church and on the evening of the 29th of August they held, in the church building, their first sociable.

In July Mr. Chas. E. Bourne, of Boston, Mass., purchased a one-fourth interest in the townsite, and was henceforth identified with the growth and development of the town.

In the early spring Jefferson Sickler put up a rough board shanty, 16x32, a little south of where the Kinney store was afterward built, and E. L. Smith and F. Drake later put up another small shanty west of the creek and both of these buildings were used as temporary residences. But the first permanent residence in the town was built by R. M. Magee, in August, on the north side of the creek. That little house is still standing on the ground where it was built and is a part of the residence of Mr. James Barr.

During the same month, August, J. H. Woodburn and L. H. Tarble

built a blacksmith shop where F. M. Brown's livery barn stands, near the alley north of Vessey's store.

Two lots east of Morse & La Point's store, E. H. Ford built a small room that was used for millinery, restaurant, printing office and other purposes in the years that followed.

In November the school house, built by subscription, was completed.

The post office building, west of the Herald office, was completed the fore part of November, and on the 5th of the month Postmaster Barrett moved the office into it from his farm at the mouth of the gulch.

At the same time J. F. Ford and I. N. Rich began the construction of a law and real estate office, which is now used by Hermesen for a barber shop.

Chapter 16.

But other matters besides the erection of buildings occupied the attention of the people of the town of Wessington Springs and the county generally.

Among the immigrants to the new county were a large number of the survivors of the Civil war. Of these veterans fifteen met in Stephens' Hall in Wessington Springs on the 16th of June, 1883, to take steps toward the organization of a G. A. R. Post. J. M. Spears was chairman of the meeting. The other present were P. R. Barrett, C. W. P. Osgood, W. T. Hay, C. T. Hall, T. V. Donovan, H. C. Stephens, C. D. Brown, J. H. Woodburn, J. G. Good, Wm. Taylor, C. H. Stephens, Jno. R. Francis, Jas. T. Ferguson, and C. M. Chery. At this meeting it was decided to organize a G. A. R. Post, to be named in honor of Gen. E. O. C. Ord, of Pennsylvania. A charter was applied for and granted. The organization was completed on the 25th of August with H. C. Stephens, commander, and C. W. Hill, adjutant.

One of the things most desired by the people at the Springs was school privileges for the children. To meet this necessity Miss Jeanette Richardson organized a school in September, which she taught several weeks. The author has been unable to learn in what room this school was held, nor who were the pupils that attended it.

For several years the people of the Territory of Dakota had been asking congress for division into North and South Dakota and the admission of both into the Union as states. In the spring of 1883 a large number of the advocates of division and admission living in the south

part of the territory, assembled at Huron and issued a call for a constitutional convention to meet in the city of Sioux Falls on the 4th day of September, 1883. In that call Jerauld, being an unorganized county, was allowed but one delegate to the convention.

A call for a mass convention of the voters of the county was published July 21st to be held on the 25th of the same month at Stephens' Hall to consult as to the best method to secure representation in the Sioux Falls convention. As Jerauld county had not been represented in the Huron meeting no one had been appointed to call a meeting of the voters of the county, so this notice was simply signed "By Request."

At 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the day appointed (Wednesday) 24 voters met in the hall. Mr. R. S. Bateman was made chairman and C. W. McDonald, clerk. The matter before the meeting was fully discussed and at length it was determined to proceed to the election of a delegate. The vote was by ballot with the following result:

C. W. McDonald, 17; C. W. Hill, 2; John Chapman, 2; J. M. Spears, 2; R. S. Bateman, 1.

The election of Mr. McDonald was then made unanimous.

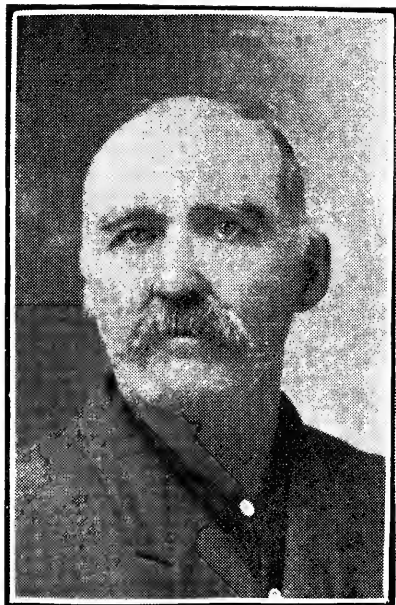
The constitutional convention met in Sioux Falls on the 4th of September, 1883, and perfected an organization. Bartlett Tripp, of Yankton, was made chairman. In the appointment of committees the member from Jerauld county was made chairman of the committee on printing.

A gentleman named George Whalen appeared to contest the place from Jerauld county. His notice of contest was presented by A. Converse, a member from Sanborn county. The matter was referred to a committee of three, who reported that grave irregularities existed in the selection of both delegates and therefore it was recommended that both delegates be seated, giving Jerauld county two representatives. A. C. Mellette moved that both be seated with the right to half a vote each. Neither plan was adopted, and Mr. Whalen retired from the convention, leaving Mr. McDonald to perform his duties without further annoyance.

The convention was in session for several weeks.

People generally throughout the territory gave but little attention to the doings of the convention. Yet some of the leaders of certain movements brought forward their ideas and forced them upon the attention of the delegates.

At the 4th quarterly meeting of the M. E. church at Wessington Springs, held on Sept. 16th, for the year 1883, the services were held in the new church. Rev. McCready, of Huron, delivered a stirring temperance address, and at the close of the meeting a petition was circulated and extensively signed asking the convention in session at Sioux Falls



E. B. Orr.



D. A. Scott.



Members of the G. A. R.

to incorporate prohibition in the constitution they were framing. This petition with another asking for equal suffrage, was given to Mr. Converse to be presented to the convention. The petitions were duly presented, but both were rejected.

The constitutional convention of 1883 concluded its labors by the appointment of a committee in each county having authority to call an election, at which the people could adopt or reject the proposed constitution. The committee for Jerauld county were C. W. McDonald, chairman, and J. F. Ford, secretary.

The committee called the election for Nov. 6th. They defined the precincts and named the judges of election as follows:

No. 1—All of township 108—63 and that part of 108—64 lying east of the bed of the Firesteel Creek from the point where it crosses the south line of the township, and thence north through the channel of said creek, to the east line of section 16, thence north to the county line. Election to be held at the house of Mr. Stewart. No judges named.

No. 2—All of township 107—63 and that part of 107—64 lying east of the Firesteel Creek. Election to be held at the residence of W. P. Pierce. No officers named.

No. 3—All of township 106—63 and that part of 106—64 lying east of the Firesteel Creek. Election to be held at the house of John Ahlers. Judges, Joseph Steichen, Henry Walters, Samuel Swenson.

No. 4—All of township 106—64 lying west of the Firesteel Creek and the east half of 106—65. Election to be held at the house of T. K. Ford. Judges, T. K. Ford, S. S. Moore and John Phillips.

No. 5—All of township 107—64 lying west of Firesteel Creek and the east half of 107—65. Election to be held at the Herald office in the village of Wessington Springs. Judges, H. C. Stephens, P. R. Barrett, Hiram Blowers.

No. 6—All of township 108—64 lying west of precinct No. 1, and the east two-thirds of 108—65. Election to be held at the house of W. N. Hill. Judges, H. A. Miller, Jesse Simons and H. J. Wallace.

No. 7—West one-third of townships 108—65 and all of 108—66 and 108—67. Election to be held at the house of I. N. Rich. Judges, C. M. Chery, O. O. England and I. N. Rich.

No. 8—The west one-half of township 107—65 and all of 107—66 and 107—67. Election to be held at the house of John Sullivan. Judges, Mr. Pryne, Samuel Marlenee and W. Crittenden.

No. 9—The west one-half of township 106—65 and all of 106—66 and 106—67. Election to be held at Crow Lake post office. Judges, S. H. Melcher, Mr. Jones and Joseph O'Brien.

Polls to be kept open from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

The call for the election was dated October 20, 1883.

To get the constitution before the voters and do the work necessary to be done before the day of election a constitutional executive committee was appointed, composed of C. W. McDonald, chairman; J. F. Ford, J. M. Spears, Geo. Whalen, John Sullivan, C. W. Hill and R. S. Bateman.

Prior to the call of the election a number of the prohibitionists of the proposed state met at Huron and organized a temperance party and named it "The Prohibition Home Protection Party of South Dakota." This meeting was held on the 10th day of October. A platform was adopted and a committeeman appointed for each county, Rev. J. G. Campbell being named for Jerauld county. Many prominent members of the new party advocated opposition to the adoption of the proposed constitution, because of the defeat of prohibition and equal suffrage. No opposition was made in Jerauld county, however, and the election came on without any strenuous campaigning.

The vote on the constitution in the county was light, the reports from the various precincts being as follows:

No. 1—No votes cast.

No. 2—No votes cast.

No. 3—For the constitution, 7.

No. 4—No votes cast.

No. 5—For, 35; against, 1.

No. 6—For, 31.

No. 7—For, 7; against, 2.

No. 8—For, 32; against, 5.

No. 9—For, 26; against, 1.

Total—For, 128; against, 9.

All the work in connection with the proposed constitution had been done without authority of law and neither the members of the convention nor the election officers received any compensation for their services, nor were they reimbursed for their expenses.

Throughout the proposed state the vote was heavily in favor of the constitution.

By September, 1883, a number of Sunday schools had been organized in the county, and on the 6th of the month a county picnic was held at the grove by the big spring. As it was the first gathering of its kind in the county the author has taken the time and space to insert the program in full:

PROGRAM.

Music—Wessington Springs Sunday School.

Prayer—Rev. J. W. P. Jordan.

Music—West Valley Union Sunday School
 Address—Rev. O. E. Murray.
 Song—By all the schools.
 Basket Dinner and Social Hour.

Afternoon, 2 O'clock.

Children's Meeting.
 Music—Quartette—West Valley Sunday School.
 Address—Prof. W. H. Jordan.
 Music—Wessington Springs Sunday School.
 Address—Mr. Huntley.
 Song—West Valley Sunday School.
 Blackboard Exercise—M. D. Crow.
 Song—Wessington Spring Sunday School.
 Closing Remarks—Rev. J. G. Campbell.
 Closing Song by all present.

At the close of the picnic a county Sunday school organization was perfected with the following officers:

President, J. G. Campbell; secretary, T. L. Blank, treasurer, Mrs. E. L. DeLine; executive committee, Harvey Russ, T. L. Blank, C. M. Barber, C. C. Wright, J. N. Cross, Mrs. D. Whealand, Lettie Ford.

This was followed on Nov. 2, 1883, by the organization of a County Sunday School association with M. D. Crow, president; T. L. Blank, secretary, and R. M. Magee, treasurer.

In September, 1883, a further change was made in the Wessington Springs townsite company by the addition of Mr. P. R. Barrett, who sold to D. A. Scott the 480 acres farm at the mouth of Barrett's gulch for \$1,000 and an undivided one-fourth interest in the townsite.

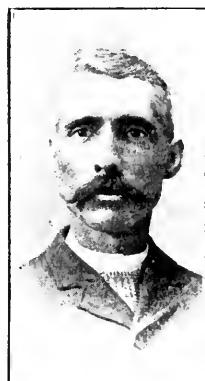
Chapter 17.

When the first settlers in the three eastern townships of the county located there it was expected that the James river division of the C. M. & St. P. would meet the Southern Minnesota branch of the same system at Milwaukee Junction, a little town that had been platted by parties, not connected with the railway company, about five miles northeast of Woonsocket.

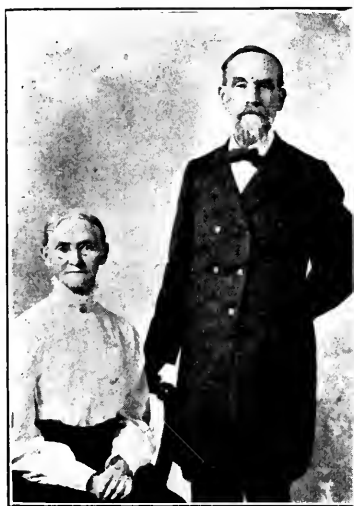
People had not then begun to realize how fully railroads were run primarily in the interest of the few men who controlled the corporations.



Isaac Pearce.



F. W. Whitney.



Rev. and Mrs. S. F. Hmtley.



Mrs. Isaac Pearce



L. W. Castleman

They did not know that townsite companies, organized among the officials of the road were platting the townsites in the name of the company and that private parties who platted land were given no consideration whatever.

All through the spring and early summer of 1883 there were rumors of the extension of the line north from Letcher, but where it would go no one could even guess. In the fore part of June one of the Plankinton papers stated that the line would run northwest from Letcher, passing about six miles east of Wessington Springs. It was not until about the first of August that the public became appraised of the course the extensions would take. During that month the company platted the town of Woonsocket in Sanborn county and in September Alpena was platted in the northeast part of Jerauld county.

Before the surveyors had completed the work of platting the town of Alpena, a house mounted on four wagons and drawn by eight horses appeared in the southeast, coming across the prairie from the direction of Milwaukee Junction. As the moving building approached, the clear notes of a cornet floated out on the evening air. When the teams had reached a point near what is now the main street of the town, one of the teams hesitated and seemed about to stop. At that instant a voice, that for two decades drove things in the village and county, roared out "gedap." It was the first word spoken in the town by an actual settler. The teams were finally halted and two men—the one with the cornet and the one with the voice—stepped to the ground and became from that moment the first settlers of the village of Alpena.

The building rested on the four wagons until the next morning when the surveyors marked out a lot on the south side of main street and then the structure was placed on its temporary foundation. It stands on the same spot to this day.

L. N. Loomis and Wesley L. Davis, the two men who arrived in the building from Milwaukee Junction at once engaged in the real estate business. One of their first moves was to purchase a printing office outfit, which they hauled from Letcher with a span of horses and on the 19th day of September they issued the first number of the Jerauld County Journal. The paper is still in existence, but now under the name of the Alpena Journal, being the oldest publication in the county.

Within a few weeks after Loomis & Davis placed their office on the townsite, other buildings arrived from Milwaukee Junction, which town had by this time disbanded, so to speak, part of it going to the new town of Woonsocket.

O. B. Jessup brought a building, which he placed on the north side

of Main street and is now used as a paint shop. Mr. Richard Davenport opened a restaurant in the Jessup building soon after its arrival.

W. L. Arnold, who had been in the mercantile business in the now deserted village in Sanborn county brought to Alpena a store building which he used that winter for a store, and in which Mr. Jessup, the first postmaster in Alpena, opened the post office about the middle of December. The building has since been used for a drug store, first by Dr. D. F. Royer, until February 1st, 1891, and then by W. W. Hillis.

A residence building was also moved to Alpena from Milwaukee Junction by W. L. Arnold.

Isaac Pearce, who owned a claim a mile south of town, built a residence and restaurant combined on the south side of Main street and began doing business in November.

By the 1st of October, 1883, the railroad was constructed as far as Alpena and trains were running.

About the same time F. W. Whitney opened a hardware store in the building now occupied by Grant Anderson on the northeast corner of Main and 2nd streets.

Soon after the completion of the railroad into the town D. F. Royer and Wm. Walcott started a lumber yard which they continued as partners until the spring of 1884 when Royer drew out and engaged in the drug business.

During the winter of 1883 Dr. Royer built a residence on a lot south of Main street, fronting on 2nd street.

Before the winter closed in Wallace Linn built a barn for a livery business and established a dray line.

Soon after the town was surveyed John Zimmerman put up a blacksmith shop.

In the township 107—63, a cemetery was located at the northeast corner of the NW quarter of section 4, then known as the Whiffin claim. Here Dr. Whiffin was buried in the fall of 1883, being the first burial in the township. A lady named Quiven was also buried in that cemetery, but in 1884 an acre was platted in the southwest corner of section 33 and both the bodies moved there. The new burial ground was named Fairview Cemetery, and is controlled by a corporation known as the Fairview Cemetery Association.

In September, 1883, a postoffice named Starkey was established on the NE of 35-107-64, with Wm. Morrill as postmaster and supplied by the route from Mitchell to Elmer. Morrill retained the office but a few weeks and then turned it over to Ed LaRue, who took the office to the NW of 31-107-63, but soon resigned and James Johnson was appointed. Johnson kept the office at the same place and opened a little candy store

but in the spring of 1884 he resigned and the office was moved to the residence of W. P. Pierce, who retained it for several years.

On December 15th, 1833, Guy Posey was born, being the first birth in township 107—63.

The location of the new town over the line in Sanborn county was a great convenience to settlers in the east half of Jerould county. As soon as the new town became a fact a petition was circulated in Wessington Springs and vicinity asking for a daily mail connection.

On October 10th, 1883, E. B. Orr put on a stage line between Wessington Springs and Woonsocket, and on the 25th of the same month, A. Peck, of Woonsocket, put on a competing line.

Farmers began hauling their produce to Woonsocket before a warehouse or elevator had been built. The first load of grain taken into the new town was a load of flax by Rev. J. G. Campbell. The man who had located there to buy grain was out of town that day, but Mr. Campbell chanced to meet John T. Kean, a lawyer, who purchased it rather than see the first load of grain brought to the town hauled away again.



PART TWO.

Chapter I.

Many years ago when Dakota Territory began to take political shape the part now known as Jerauld county was in the western part of Buffalo county, which embraced the country west of Minnehaha and north of Yankton counties.

In 1873 the legislature created the county of Wetmore, including in it the west half of what is now Miner county, all of Sanborn, all of Jerauld, except the three west townships in range sixty-seven, and the north tier of townships in Aurora county. Wetmore county was never organized and in 1879 it was cut up into smaller political subdivisions, the present boundaries of Jerauld county being attached to Crogin county to form Aurora.

The creation of the county of Jerauld was an incident of the capital fight that for several years was waged with great bitterness and much of political intrigue between Yankton and Bismarck in the old territorial days.

In the course of the contest many towns became ambitious of capital honors, and many local jealousies were involved.

The men who controlled the contending forces were masters of all the arts of politics.

A history of that contest is outside the purpose of this volume, except in so far as it effects the subject in hand.

One of the methods to secure votes in the territorial legislature of 1879, 1881 and 1883 upon the questions involved in the relocation of the capital, was the creation of new counties and naming them in reward for political service rendered by the persons whose names were bestowed upon the various political subdivisions.

In some instances the opposite course was taken and a county would be threatened with annihilation (as in the case of Davison county) in the hope of whipping an obstinate member into line.

By an act approved February 22, 1879, the boundaries of the county of Hanson were extended to include the county of Davison, the latter county was abolished and the county of Aurora was created.

By this act Aurora county extended from Douglas county on the south to Beadle and Hand counties on the north and included all of townships 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 and 108, and ranges 63, 64, 65 and 66.

This act placed in Aurora county all of what is now Jerauld county, except the townships in range 67.

Commissioners for Aurora county were appointed by Gov. Ordway in the summer of 1881.

One of the commissioners appointed was A. B. Smart of township 107—65, now of Wessington Springs, Jerauld county.

In the organization of Aurora county, Mr. Alden Brown, now in the Soldiers' Home at Quincy, Ill., but then a resident of the northwest quarter of section 6—107—64, was appointed superintendent of schools. Mr. Brown served but a few months and resigned. At the instance of Mr. Smart the board then appointed C. W. McDonald, of section 13—107—65, to fill the vacancy.

Another act approved March 1st, 1881, made Hanson county extend only to the James river, on the west, while the east line of Aurora county was made the new west line of Hanson county, but leaving the balance of Aurora county the same as designated by the act of 1879. This act, however, provided for a vote of the people of Davison county on the matter of annexation.

By an act approved March 9th, 1883, the last day of the session, a new county was created by dividing Aurora county on the line between townships 105 and 106. The new county was made to include townships 106, 107 and 108 from south to north, and ranges 63, 64, 65, 66 and 67, from east to west. The new county was named Jerauld, the name of a member of the territorial council from Lincoln county.

The townships 108—67, 107—67 and 106—67 had formerly been a part of Buffalo county.

The act made provision for an election on the question of division to be held in that part of Jerauld county taken from Aurora, which election was appointed by the law for the 17th day of April, 1883.

The act also provided that the commissioners of Aurora county should appoint judges of such election and establish precincts therefor. Provision was also made for publication of notices of said election in paper to be designated by the Aurora county commissioners.

After the creation of Brule county in 1879, Buffalo county was attached to it for judicial purposes. At the next session of the territorial legislature, 1881, an act was passed authorizing the filing and recording of deeds and mortgages, taken in unorganized counties in the county to which they were attached for judicial purposes.

As Buffalo county was then attached to Brule for judicial purposes, the deeds and mortgages and other conveyances of Buffalo county lands were placed on the record books of Brule county at Chamberlain.

This included townships 106—67, 107—67 and 108—67, which were a part of Buffalo county until April 17th, 1883.

Chapter 2.

In accordance with the act of March 9th, 1883, the commissioners of Aurora county caused notice of the election for April 17th to the published in the Wessington Springs Herald and also in the Aurora County Standard. Precincts in the proposed new county were established and judges appointed as follows:

No. 1—Townships 107 and 108, range 63 and the two east tiers of sections in township 107 and 108, range 64. Polling place, house of I. P. Ray. Judges, J. W. Whiffin, Hiram Fisher and I. P. Ray.

No. 2—Townships 106, range 63, 64 and 65. Polling place, the house of Chas. Walters. Judges, L. G. Wilson, T. K. Ford and John Steiner.

No. 3—Township 108, range 65 and 66 and township 107, range 65, with the four west tiers of sections in townships 107 and 108, range 64. Polling place, Elmer P. O. Judges, C. W. Hill, Chas. W. McDonald and A. B. Smart.

No. 4—Townships 106 and 107, range 66. Polling place, the house of Albert Allyn. Judges, H. F. Brasch, Albert Allyn and Phillip H. Best.

Polls to remain open from 8 a. m. until 5 p. m.

The election was a victory for the new county. The vote was for division, 149; against division 25. In Wessington Springs precinct division lacked but one vote of being unanimous.

The result of the election was certified to the territorial secretary at Yankton and on the 30th day of September, 1883, the governor appointed Hiram D. Fisher, of 107—64, Almona B. Smart, of 107—65 and Samuel H. Melcher, of 106—66, commissioners to organize Jerauld county. The commissions were sent by mail to Mr. Melcher, at Crow Lake, who forwarded the commissions for Smart and Fisher to them at Wessington Springs by T. H. Null.

In the division of the county of Aurora the old organization retained all the property and assumed all the debts. Jerauld county started without debt and without money.

There is no record showing when the commissioners of the new county took the oath of office, or that they ever qualified in the legal sense of the word as officials. But, be that as it may, they met at the residence of A. B. Smart near Wessington Springs and organized on the 9th day of November, 1883, by electing Mr. Smart chairman of the board. Mr. Smart was made chairman because of his experience as a member of the board that organized Aurora county.

The first motion made and carried after organization was to the effect that at the close of this first session, the board adjourn until the first Monday in January, 1884, which would come on the 7th of that month.

Some time prior to the organization of the board, Mr. Charles W. McDonald had been appointed by Judge A. J. Egerton to be clerk of the district court for Jerauld county. Mr. McDonald now appeared before the board and filed his bond, upon which appeared the names of Peter R. Barrett and Robert S. Bateman as sureties. The bond was approved November 9th, 1883. Mr. McDonald continued to hold this position until the admission of South Dakota as a state in 1889.

On this 9th day of November, 1883, at the evening session, R. Y. Hazard, of 106—66, was appointed to be the first school superintendent of Jerauld county. This appointment was made at the instance of Com. Melcher. A candidate in opposition to Mr. Hazard was a man named J. T. Johnston, of township 108—66, who was elected to succeed Mr. Hazard at the first regular election for county officers held in November, 1884.

A number of private or subscription schools, had been held in various parts of the county in the two previous years, but upon Mr. Hazard devolved the responsibility of organizing the public school system for the county. It is to be regretted that full records were not kept and preserved.

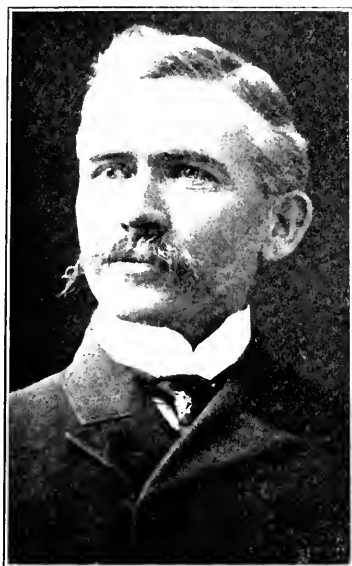
Aside from organizing and approving Mr. McDonald's bond as clerk of the district court, but little was done during the first day, of an official character, the members of the board putting in most of the time in talking over the work before them in a commendable desire to get a full understanding of their duties.

Now that we have reached the point, after which these three commissioners must always hold an important place in the history of the county, it is proper that they, individually, be given a more extended notice than it is our intention to give to persons, in the preparation of this chronicle. We shall hereafter write of persons only in connection with events.

Samuel Henry Melcher was born at Gilmantown, New Hampshire, October 30th, 1828. He was a student in the medical department of



T. L. Blank.



J. E. McNamara.



R. Y. Hazard.



A. B. Smart.



Dr. S. H. Melcher.

Bowdoin College, Maine; and also in the Vermont Medical College. He graduated M. D. at Dartmouth College, November 6th, 1850, and began practice of his profession as house surgeon of the City Hospital in South Boston, remaining there during the winter of 1850—51. May 7th, 1861, he was made assistant surgeon of the Fifth Missouri Volunteers and served with that regiment at the battles of Carthage, Mo., Dug Springs and Wilson Creek. Surgeon Melcher remained on the battlefield of Wilson Creek until all the other Federal officers had left, and obtained from the Confederate General Price the body of General Lyon, commander of the Union forces in that engagement, who was killed there, and brought it to Springfield, Mo., accompanied by a Confederate escort, furnished by the rebel General Rains. The term of service of the regiment, which had enlisted for three months, had now expired and Mr. Melcher volunteered to remain in Springfield as a prisoner to care for the wounded Union soldiers, numbering over 500, who had been brought there from the Wilson Creek battlefield. The people of Springfield generously furnished provisions and supplies to the wounded of both armies until Surgeon Melcher obtained the things needed from the headquarters of the Union forces at Rolla. He was at his post in the hospital on the 25th of October, 1861, when Fremont's bodyguard, under the gallant Major Zagonyi, made its memorable charge into the city of Springfield and drove out the confederate forces. The wounded survivors of that battle were gathered at the court house, made as a hospital, and on the morning after the fight Mr. Melcher, assisted by a soldier from the 1st Iowa V. I. and another from 1st Missouri V. I., raised the stars and stripes over the old court house, which still stands in the center of the square.

In November, 1861, Surgeon Melcher removed all the Wilson Creek wounded to St. Louis and on Dec. 4th, 1861, he was made brigade surgeon of the First Brigade Mo. S. M. Vol. He was now assigned to hospital duty in St. Louis on the staff of Gen. Schofield, and in the spring of 1862 he at one time had charge of the three most important hospitals in the city. For his efficient services in the supervision of these hospitals he was made the recipient of a testimonial from the Western Sanitary Commission and honorable mention by the Surgeon General of the United States. He was then made a member of the commission to examine candidates for appointment as surgeon of state troops. Mr. Melcher was commissioned Colonel and organized and equipped the 32nd E. M. M. In October, 1862, he was stationed at Springfield and organized the medical department there. On the night of January 7, 1863, Col. Melcher organized a force of the convalescents under his care, chained three old iron cannon on wagon wheels and during the 8th rendered great assistance to Gen. Brown in driving back the rebels under Marma-

duke. Vol. 2, part 2 of the Medical History of the War of the Rebellion contains an account of an operation performed by Surgeon Melcher upon Gen. Brown, who was wounded in the defense of Springfield, January 8th, 1863. He was made lieutenant colonel of the 6th cavalry Mo. S. M. Vols. in 1863, and in 1864 he was aide de camp on the staff of Gen. Pleasanton during the Price raid in Missouri. His last service in the army was as post commander at Jefferson City, Mo. He was compelled to resign because of injury to his sight caused by a bursting shell at the battle of Springfield, Jan. 8th, 1863, and which has since resulted in total blindness.

Mr. Melcher has been a member of the I. O. O. F. since February 10, 1892, and now has a fifty-year veteran jewel of the order. He is a member of the G. A. R., of the Society of the Army of the Frontier and a Companion of the Military Order Loyal Legion of the United States.

Hiram D. Fisher was born in Hermon, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., Oct. 14, 1847. Later in life he became a resident of Rockford, Iowa, and in 1883 moved to Jerauld county, D. T. His education was obtained in the common schools. Sept. 12, 1885, he married Mrs. Wilma Pinkman. Mr. Fisher moved back to Rockford, Iowa, in 1889, where he resided until his death, June 26, 1906.

Almona B. Smart, chairman of the board, was a Methodist minister, who had graduated from Boston University. He had been a sailor before the mast and as such visited many parts of the world. From education and observation he had become a bitter opponent of the liquor traffic in all its forms as well as of all other kinds of vice. As a member of the board of commissioners of Aurora county he had kept that county free from saloons and been at all times a tireless and vehement worker in the cause of temperance. In his work as a minister he seemed to feel no fatigue, but filled appointments at Plankinton, Mitchell, Huron, Miller and intermediate points, as well as at numerous dwelling houses in his home county.

These were the men upon whom was placed the burden of creating a county out of the raw material at hand. They represented three utterly distinct types of men.

Smart was a man of much learning, possessed of great tenacity of opinion and a disregard of public clamor that has at times made him unpopular with the people. Yet, probably no other man has done so much for the general welfare of the county, intellectually and morally, as he.

Melcher was a man of pleasing manners, wide experience, cultured and possessed of great creative and executive ability. He, more than

any other member of the board, shaped the policy that has been pursued by the county as an organization ever since.

Fisher was a man who typified the spirit of the masses.

Looking back at their work, across the vista of twenty-five years, though it shows crudeness in places, yet, in view of the many perplexing and annoying occurrences that beset them, the political edifice they reared—temperate, moral, out of debt and never bonded—looks well beside its fellows.

Chapter 3.

On the second day of the session at the instance of Mr. Fisher, J. F. Ford was appointed clerk of the board to serve until such time as a register of deeds should be appointed, the law at that time making that officer ex-officio clerk for the county commissioners.

On the same day the commissioners gave the first order for county supplies. It was an order to Perkins Bros., of Sioux City, for blank books to the amount of \$282.00, or at such sum as any other "legitimate house would furnish them," and for four seals at \$4.00 each; all to be paid for with county warrants, payable when there should be a sufficient surplus of money in the county treasury. The warrants were taken at par.

During this second day's session a letter from E. S. Waterbury was read and placed on file, expressing concurrence and asking that the portion of Buffalo county annexed to Jerauld by the last legislature be recognized in the organization of Jerauld county.

November 10, 1883, F. T. Tofflemier, J. O. Gray and Henry Herring were appointed justices of the peace and James Paddock, L. W. Castleman and B. F. Wiley were appointed constables.

The board finished the appointment of judicial officers for the new county, except probate judge, on the 10th day of November, 1883, by giving J. M. Spears the office of sheriff.

The board took up the subject of bridges on the 2nd day of the session, and authorized Commissioner Fisher to construct a bridge on the line between sections 14 and 23 in 107—64, at a cost to the county not to exceed \$100.

The board closed its first session by dividing the county into three commissioner districts as follows:

District No. 1—All that part of the county lying east of the Firesteel Creek.

District No. 2—All that part of the county lying between the Firesteel Creek and the town line between 108—65 and 108—66.

District No. 3—The balance of the county.

Board adjourned to meet January 7th, 1884.

The second meeting of the board was held on the evening of the 17th of November, 1883, when Mr. Melcher and Mr. Smart chanced to meet in the office of Dunham & Ingham, publishers of the Jerauld County News, in what was then known as the Applegate building, later as the Woodburn Hotel, but now as the old Carlton House. Mr. Smart acted as both chairman and clerk at that meeting.

Nothing of importance was done that evening but the next day Mr. Fisher being present a meeting was held in the office of McDonald & Bateman with Mr. Ford as clerk. At this meeting Mr. Smart was authorized to construct a bridge to cost not to exceed \$75 across the gulch on the line between sections 17 and 18—107—64. The board numbered the bridges to be built as follows:

No. 1—Across the Firesteel between sections 14 and 23—107—64.

No. 2—Across the gulch between 17 and 18—107—64.

No. 3—On line between sections 20 and 21—107—64.

No. 4—On line between sections 28 and 29—107—67.

No. 5—On line between sections 32 and 33—107—67.

Commissioner Melcher was authorized to construct bridges No. 3, 4 and 5 at a cost of not to exceed \$400 to the county.

A petition was read from the people of Buffalo county and the western part of Jerauld county asking for the appointment of a probate judge from the western part of the county.

At the meeting on the 8th of January, 1884, the first bill against the county was presented by W. J. Williams. It was \$15.00 for hauling the lumber and making approaches for the bridge, authorized on the 10th of November to be built across the Firesteel Creek. Warrant No. 3 was afterward issued for this account.

At the adjourned meeting on the 7th day of January, 1884, the board adopted the proceeding of the meeting held on the 17th of November and made the minutes of that meeting a part of the record.

Chapter 4.

With organization came a multiplicity of matters, great and small, to vex the minds of the county commissioners, and arouse the good, or ill will of people interested, according to the success or failure of their wishes. The offices were to be filled and for each of several positions there were numerous applicants. The county seat must be located temporarily, and for this there were two candidates, Wessington Spring and Templeton. Then in the former place there were several parties, each wanting the county building located on their particular piece of property.

The Wessington Springs Townsite company, through one of their number, Mr. D. A. Scott, now of Sioux Falls, went before the board and offered office rooms for county officers free of rent for one year, if the commissioners would locate the county seat temporarily at Wessington Springs, and making the further offer that if that place should be made the permanent location they would then give a block of lots for county buildings and supply the buildings with water.

J. N. Cross of Templeton, sent in an offer of "the use of two spacious rooms, provided with stoves, for six years, and two blocks of lots to be selected by the county commissioners," if the county capital should be located on his farm, the NE quarter of section 7—107—65 (Media). In the spring and summer of 1883 Mr. Cross had erected a large two story grout building, and it was in this structure that he offered the rooms. On January 11th Mr. Cross increased his offer to "every third block to be platted on the N half of the NE quarter of section 7—107—65, one-half to be delivered for immediate use and the balance when the county seat should be permanently located on that tract. The offer was never accepted, and inasmuch as the large grout building tumbled to a heap of ruins three years later it was probably wise to reject it.

The matter was made more complicated, and the inducements of the various offers somewhat lessened, by various propositions from other parties, some with objects to be gained and some without. Among the latter was one from McDonald & Bateman, publishers of the Wessington Springs Herald and proprietors of the Jerauld County Bank, offering "the use of their printing office and banking rooms" in the building later used by C. W. England for a confectionary and tobacco store and now by Earl Hawthorne as living rooms in connection with his restaurant, for use of the clerk of the district court and the county commissioners free of rent, and furnish lights and fuel for one year. As Mr. McDonald had secured the office he desired, and Mr. Bateman was not a candidate for anything, it is difficult to see any private gain for them in the acceptance of their offer.

J. F. Ford, a candidate for register of deeds, "offered the county commissioners the use of his office, rent free, for one year." His office was about one-half of the building in which Hermson's barber shop is now located. The commissioners availed themselves of this offer for a few days and held their meetings in Mr. Ford's office until February 19th, 1884, but without indicating at the time of acceptance who would be their choice for register of deeds.

O. V. Harris, another candidate for that office, offered to perform the duties of register of deeds for the year 1884, for no other compensation than that for recording instruments and furnish rent, lights, fuel and stationery for the county.

Commissioner Smart now submitted a proposition on the location of the county seat, which was "to furnish land and material for court house to be built of granite, sandstone and limestone, if court house was located on the SE quarter of SE quarter of section 12—107—65.

On the 3rd day of this session the board fixed the amount of the official bonds of county officers as follows:

Register of Deeds, \$1,000.

Probate Judge, \$1,000.

Treasurer, \$4,000.

Sheriff, \$2,000.

County Superintendent, \$1,000.

Coroner, \$1,000.

Justices, \$500.

On January 10th the board took up the subject of school townships, numbering them and defining their boundaries. This duty seems to have perplexed and bothered the commissioners as much as any other matter that occupied their attention. The territorial law required school townships to correspond with congressional townships except in case where natural obstacles rendered such a course impracticable. The Firesteel Creek was looked upon by the board as such an obstacle. Yet this does not account for all of the actions of the board in creating school townships.

School township No. 1 was made to comprise congressional township No. 108, N range 63 W., 5th P. M.

No. 2—Township 108—64 and the east half of 108—65.

No. 3—The west half of 108—65 and all of 108—66.

No. 4—All of 108—67 and all of 107—67.

No. 5—All of 107—66.

No. 6—All of 107—65 and five tiers of sections off the west side of 107—64.

No. 7—One tier of sections off the east side of 107—64 and all of 107—63.

No. 8—All of 106—63 and one tier of sections off the east side of 106—64.

No. 9—All of 106—65 and all of 106—64 lying west of No. 8.

No. 10—All of 106—66.

No. 11—All of 106—67.

The next day, January 11th, the county seat matter again came up. George R. Bateman and Hiram Blowers, who owned a tract of land north and east of the town, offered the county forty acres, if the court house should be located on the property, and all the stone needed to be delivered within one mile of the building. This offer was filed with the others and entered in the minutes of the meeting.

At the meeting on January 12th the subject of appointing an official county paper came up. There were then five newspapers in the county: The Buffalo County Herald, published at Sulphur Spring; The News, published at Waterbury; the Wessington Springs Herald, and the Jerauld County News, published at Wessington Springs and the Journal, published at Alpena.

McDonald & Bateman, publishers of the Herald, at Wessington Springs, offered to publish the minutes of the board meetings without cost to the county, if their paper should be made the official paper. The offer was accepted.

Saturday afternoon, January 12th, the county seat problem was again brought forward, this time in a definite proposition. Commissioner Fisher voted for Wessington Springs and Commissioner Melcher for Templeton, the name given to the postoffice located on Mr. Cross' farm, before mentioned. The vote being a tie the chairman declined to vote on the question until Monday, that course being in accordance with the law of the territory and now, also, of the state. There was no doubt as to how Mr. Smart would vote, so when in Monday's session he voted with Mr. Fisher for Wessington Springs, no one was surprised or disappointed.

January 14th, 1884, was a day that has never been surpassed in the history of the county in political interest. The board had announced that on that day they would listen to representations, from the different candidates for the various positions to be filled by appointment. The candidates were on hand—all in person and some with attorney, also—and the day was given up to speech making, or essay readings as the reasons why this one or that one should be appointed were laid before the board. No one but the commissioners then knew that the members of the board had held a secret meeting a few evenings previously in the northwest corner room on the second floor of Tarbell's hotel, in which they had agreed upon the candidates that should be appointed.

Chapter 5.

Among the candidates who appeared before the board that day were several who subsequently became prominent in the affairs of the county and state.

For the position of register of deeds were J. F. Ford, now of Los Angeles, California; T. L. Blank, now a civil engineer of Des Moines, Iowa; O. V. Harris, B. F. Swatnan, J. R. Francis, afterward justice of the peace, and for many years district attorney and probate judge; T. H. Null, for some time attorney for the state board of railroad commissioners, and now practicing attorney at Huron, and A. N. Louder, now a merchant at Presho, S. D.

For probate judge the candidates were R. M. Magee, M. C. Ayers, afterward state's attorney for the county, and H. M. Rice.

For assessor the candidates were L. G. Wilson, afterward county commissioner, Geo. Whealen, and M. D. Crow.

For treasurer the candidates were E. V. Miles, elected state senator in the statehood movement in 1885, P. R. Barrett, postmaster at Wessington Springs and W. J. Williams.

The candidates for county surveyor were H. J. Wallace, afterward county surveyor, county treasurer and state surveyor, and J. M. Corbin, for many years a popular instructor among the Indians at Pine Ridge and Rosebud agencies.

This performance was for some time referred to as "the county's literary entertainment." At its close the board adjourned without announcing any appointments.

The next morning, Jan. 16th, the board announced the appointment of R. M. Magee, of the firm of Drake & Magee, attorney for Jerauld county without salary. The only compensation Mr. Magee ever received from this appointment was \$6.00 on February 6th and \$10 on May 2, 1884, as fees for consultations.

On the same day a petition signed by 26 electors of townships 108—66 and 107—66 was presented to the board by I. N. Rich, asking that those two townships be made into one school organization. Another petition was presented that day by Mr. Dean of 107—66, asking that that township be made a school township by itself. This petition was signed by 42 electors. The petitions were filed and action on them deferred.

E. S. Waterbury and C. V. Martin of Crow township, appeared before the board on the 17th and protested against the plan adopted by the commissioners in fixing the boundaries of the school townships. They asked that for the west side of the county, at least, the school and congressional townships should embrace the same territory. The board then took up

the subject of school elections and commencing with 108—67 the north-west corner township, they changed the school township lines. The following is the substance of the order made January 17th.

The election was called for Feb. 23, the names of the judges and the polling places being stated in the order.

No. 1 (108—67)—Judges, J. M. Corbin, J. J. Groub and John Calvert, at the residence of J. J. Groub.

No. 2 (107—67)—Judges, E. A. Herman, W. M. Cross and M. E. Merwin, at the store of Rice & Herring in the town of Waterbury.

No. 3 (106—67)—Judges, W. S. Combs, Wm. Niemeyer and Z. P. De Forest, at Wm. Niemeyer's residence.

No. 4 (108—66)—Judges, Chas. Smith, Moses Rich and Daniel Mitchell, at the residence of Moses Rich.

No. 5 (107—66)—Judges, G. W. Stetson, S. Sourwine and J. W. Todd, the house of S. Sourwine.

No. 6 (106—66)—Judges, David Moulton, Frank Spinler and E. H. Crossman, at residence of Joseph O'Brien.

No. 7 (108—65 and 4½ tiers of sections on the west side of 108—64)—Judges, E. V. Miles, Wm. Hawthorne and Jorgen Hansen. Polling place the office of Ford & Rich in Wessington Springs.

No. 9 (106—65 and 4½ tiers of sections off the west side of 106—64)—Judges, Chas. Walters, A. D. Cady, and Wm. Dixon, at house of S. S. Moore.

No. 10 (108—63 and 1½ tiers of sections off the east side of 108—64)—Judges, Chas. Eastman, Jos. Moore and Wm. Arne, at the office of L. N. Loomis in the town of Alpena.

No. 11 (107—63 and 1½ tiers of sections off the east side of 107—64)—Judges, Owen Williams, W. P. Pierce and Henry Kineriem, at residence of Wm. Houmes.

No. 12 (106—63 and 1½ tiers of sections off the east side of 106—64)—Judges, Henry Walters, Thos. Biggar and Jos. Steichen.

The commissioners also named the election clerks for each township, but their names were not entered in the book containing the records of the commissioners' proceedings. The clerks named by the board were as follows:

No. 1—O. G. Emery, James Talbert.

No. 2—W. A. Rex, H. W. Austin.

No. 3—Jacob Norin, Amos Gotwals.

No. 4—Wm. Brenner, Jeff Sickler.

No. 5—S. F. Huntley, Mark Williams.

No. 6—E. L. Sawyer, Joseph O'Brien.

No. 7—M. A. Schaefer, A. T. Kerkman.

No. 8—M. C. Ayers, M. D. Crow.

No. 9—Fred Burrows, Wm. Paganhart.

No. 10—Wesley Davis, Joel Harding.

No. 11—K. S. Starkey, Andrew Olsen.

No. 12—Henry Koonse, Wm. Daniels.

The affairs of the county now reached a condition where it was necessary that the various county offices should be filled and on the 18th of January the following appointments were announced:

Surveyor—J. A. McFarlane.

Treasurer—W. J. Williams.

Assessor—L. G. Wilson.

Probate Judge—H. M. Rice.

Register of Deeds—T. L. Blank.

For surveyor the appointee, Mr. McFarlane, was not a candidate and declined to qualify.

At this meeting a bill for \$6.25, express charges on the supplies received from Perkins Bros., ordered Nov. 10, 1883, was presented by C. W. McDonald and allowed. For this bill warrant No. 1 was issued. It was cashed by Mr. Melcher at par and was paid and cancelled a few weeks later and is now in the possession of Mr. McDonald.

The county seat propositions by the various parties was combined and presented to the board as follows, under date of January 18, 1884:

The commissioners' record was published in the Wessington Springs Herald is as follows.

"On motion the combined proposition of Mrs. R. J. Smart and A. B. Smart and D. A. Scott on the part of the townsite proprietors and Hiram Blowers and George Bateman was accepted," but the acceptance does not appear of record.

On motion the county attorney was instructed to draw the necessary paper in reference to the combined proposition.

COMBINED PROPOSITION.

Hiram Blowers offers to give two lots to the county to be selected by the commissioners and another to be selected by himself. George Bateman offers to give one acre on one of the two corners nearest the townsite, or anywhere along the west line of the NW quarter NE quarter section 18, township 107, range 64, to be selected by the commissioners.

Proposition of Smart and Scott—The blocks and lots to be given are to be platted and numbered so as to make block A as the court house block located north of block 2, SW of equal size with it the south part and block 4 and block 5 in the townsite of Wessington Springs to be given by the townsite proprietors and the north part of block C together

with block 1 and three on the SE quarter SE quarter section 12, township 107, range 65 as designated by the plats shown in connection with the proposition offered, the stone with which to build the buildings, granite, limestone, sandstone, to be given by A. B. Smart and Mrs. R. J. Smart, all this property used only for the purpose of providing the county with a proper set of county buildings. These buildings to be built as soon as practicable in the judgment of the commissioners.

Provided, that if any part of the above specified gifts are ever used for the purpose of buying, selling, manufacturing or using intoxicants as a beverage or in any way helping the same, then, in that case, such part shall revert to the original donor.

January 26th the board estimated that the cost of running the county one year would be between \$500 and \$1000, and instructed the chairman and clerk to see what arrangements could be made to get banks or individuals to cash warrants for current expenses. Though no arrangement was perfected, it is probable that the effort kept the county warrants at a reasonable discount.

The board now began to look about for a building to be used by the register of deeds for an office, and for general county purposes. The chairman was authorized to receive sealed bids for the construction of a building 12x20 feet in size, with 8 foot ceiling.

On Feb. 4th the first petition for civil township organization was presented by a number of the voters of township 108—65. The petition was filed and never heard of again.

An order made by the commissioners on the 5th day of February established the road districts of the county to correspond in size and number with the school townships and appointed road overseers for the different districts as follows:

- No. 1—J. M. Corbin.
- No. 2—E. S. Waterbury.
- No. 3—Wm. Niemeyer.
- No. 4—Jeff Sickler.
- No. 5—Mark Williams.
- No. 6—Elliott L. Sawyer.
- No. 7—C. W. Hill.
- No. 8—H. Blowers.
- No. 9—T. K. Ford.
- No. 10—Isaac Pearce.
- No. 11—Sever Starkey.
- No. 12—Nicholas Steichen.

As the time for the school township election approached the matter of providing for it occupied the attention of the board. Twelve ballot boxes were ordered made and distributed to the various precincts. Ballots also were ordered printed and paid for by the county. No one seemed to think but that the county having ordered the election and furnished the boxes, was logically bound to provide the ballots. So McDonald & Bateman were paid five dollars to print 1000 ballots 3x4 inches in size containing the following printed form:

For Name _____

For Director _____

For Clerk _____

For Treasurer _____

They had no thought that they were applying the fundamental principle of a system that in a few years would be in use throughout the nation.

The cattle industry of the county had by this time become so important that the stockgrowers desired the appointment of a branding committee. The board named R. S. Vessey, Joseph O'Brien and the register of deeds, who entered upon their duties at once.

During this day's session, Feb. 5th, the first negative vote by a member of the board was cast by the chairman on the proposition to instruct the deputy register of deeds to transcribe records of the commissioners' proceedings into the book procured by the county for that purpose. The motion carried by the vote of the other members of the board.

At this time there was located on the ground now occupied by the Oliver hotel, a small building, about 14x20 feet in size, built by private subscription in the summer of 1883 for school purposes. This building was offered to the county at cost by the builders on the 5th day of February, 1884. On the 6th the commissioners closed a deal for the structure and the school which was then in progress was moved to the residence of Hiram Blowers, a short distance northeast of town. This was the first building owned by Jerauld county and since then no rent has been paid for court room, or offices for public officials.

On the same day a resolution introduced by Mr. Melcher was adopted unanimously that no saloon license should be issued during the existence of that board. The same policy was pursued by each succeeding board until 1887, and has been the general policy of the county ever since. The prevailing sentiment of this people has been that any community that depends for its prosperity upon the establishment of resorts of vice and crime, has something inately wrong in its make-up.

Chapter 6.

The register of deeds moved into the school house immediately after its purchase by the commissioners and on the 19th day of February, 1884, the board held its first meeting there. This meeting was a special one called by the county clerk for the purpose of appointing a surveyor, Mr. McFarlane having declined the position.

The next day, the 20th, on the motion of Mr. Melcher, H. J. Wallace was given the appointment.

The next meeting of the board was on March 5th for the purpose of canvassing the returns of the elections held in the various townships on the 23rd of February. The following is the result in the various townships:

No. 1.—Director, W. S. Scofield; clerk, J. M. Corbin; treasurer, Ambrose Baker. All the officers were elected without opposition. Name, Marlar, 13; Rock, 8. The township was named in honor of Wm. Marlar, one of the first settlers in the township.

No. 2.—(The board made the following minutes): The election was declared void on account of returns, showing that Henry E. Merwin had served both as judge and clerk of election; also the returns show that there is a tie in the choice of name for the township and by affidavits received at this office the clerk elect in township No. 2 was not eligible. Therefore the board desires that the people settle these questions.

No. 3.—J. A. Riegal and D. B. Paddock each received five votes, but Paddock declined and Riegal qualified as director; clerk, H. A. Frick; treasurer, J. Long. Name, Lake, 5; May, 2; Alexander, 2; Banner, 1; Freemont, 1.

No. 4.—Director, O. O. England; clerk, Wm. Murphy; treasurer, C. G. Smith. Name, Harmony, 12; Richland, 5; Clyde, 1. The name was proposed by J. H. Shepard, who at that time had a pre-emption residence on the northwest quarter of section ten of that township (108—66). Quite a little friction had developed among the settlers of that precinct in which lived a good many Quakers. The name "Harmony" appealed to their love of peace and good will and most of them cast their votes accordingly. It was afterward learned that Mr. Shepard had proposed the name in honor of his home postoffice in Chautauqua county, New York.

No. 5.—Director, I. Byam; clerk, B. R. Shimp; treasurer, Samuel Marlenee. Name, Pleasant Valley, 15; Maud, 10; Minnie Todd, 3; Todd, 1; Minnie, 1; Columbia, 1; Excelsior, 1. The township was named "Pleasant Valley" because of the fact that it lies across one of the most beautiful and fertile valleys in the whole territory. The territorial

auditor, when the name was certified to him, rejected it as too long, and the board struck off the word "Valley" and christened the township "Pleasant," by which name it has since been officially known.

No. 6.—Director, Joseph O'Brien; clerk, B. F. Jones; treasurer, Z. S. Moulton. Name, Custer, 23; Crow Lake, 15.

No. 7.—Director, W. T. Hay; clerk, G. W. Bartow; treasurer, E. W. Chapman. Name, Dale, 29; Chery, 14. The name was suggested by Andrew Mercer, who with several other settlers had met at the residence of H. J. Wallace on the morning of the election to talk matters over. During the talk a little boy in knee pants was playing about the house. Mercer inquired the name of the boy. Being informed that it was "Dale" he remarked, "Boys, that's a good name for our township," and the name was adopted. The boy was Dale C. Wallace, afterward treasurer and still a resident of Jerauld county.

No. 8.—Director, J. N. Cross; clerk, Geo. R. Bateman; treasurer, Wm. Hawthorne. Name, Wessington Springs, 39; Springs, 1.

The name was derived from the famous springs that flow from the foot of the hills. Who named the springs is not known. Wessington was a trapper who visited the hills and was killed in 1862 by the Indians in the grove by the big spring. Mr. Cross, after qualifying resigned and on the 24th of April Mr. Hazard appointed K. S. Starkey in his place.

No. 9.—Director, Samuel Moore; clerk, Wm. R. Day; treasurer, Chas. Walters. Name, Viola, 22; Butler, 19; Sabrina, 1. The name adopted was in honor of Mrs. Viola Moss, a sister of Rev. J. N. Smith.

No. 10.—Director, Walt Suerth; clerk, Rueben J. Eastman; treasurer, L. N. Loomis. Name, Alpena, 51; Newside, 3; Newark, 1. The township was named from the village located there.

No. 11.—Director, Joseph Doctor; clerk, David M. Black; treasurer, W. P. Pierce. Name, Franklin, 27. The name is in honor of Mr. L. E. Franklin, one of the early settlers.

No. 12.—Director, A. I. Churchill; clerk, O. A. Knudtson; treasurer, Joseph Steichen. Name, Lincoln, 51; Washington, 2; Black, 1.

After completing the canvass of the returns the board of commissioners ordered a new election for district No. 2, to be held on the 18th of March, 1884, but made no appointment of officers of election. Polling place again designated as Herring & Rice's store in the town of Waterbury.

Another special session of the board was held on the 27th day of March for the purpose of settling with C. J. Anderson, register of Aurora county, who had been employed by the board to transcribe the records of Jerauld county property from the books of Aurora county

into the Jerauld county books. The work was accepted and Mr. Anderson was given a warrant for \$440.85.

By April 8th five separate petitions had been received by the register of deeds, from people in the eastern part of the county, asking for re-organization of their school townships on the lines of congressional townships. It was apparent that the plan adopted by the board was not at all satisfactory and so the petitions were granted and the following order was made:

"The nine school townships east of the line between ranges 65 and 66 be made into nine school townships, according to congressional lines, except 8 and 14, and numbered as follows:

No. 13 shall be township 108—65.

No. 14 shall be 107—65 less the part given to 8.

No. 15 shall be 106—65.

The other six townships east will retain their names and numbers and the superintendent will fill the vacancies according to law, as they may occur.

No. 8 shall also include the east half of sections 1, 12 and 13 of 107—65."

A special school township election was ordered for No. 13, 14 and 15, to be held April 26th, 1884, to elect officers and select names.

The following judges were appointed for these special elections:

No. 13—C. W. Hill, P. B. Davis and H. J. Wallace. Polling place, residence of W. N. Hill.

No. 14.—Conway Thompson, B. G. Cummings, and Charles Hanson. Polling place, residence of Charles Beach.

No. 15.—O. F. Kellogg, N. E. Williams and Gordon McDonald. Polling place, residence of Don C. Needham.

On the same day, April 8th, it being found necessary to fix the salary of the county superintendent, an order was made giving that officer a salary of \$200 per year and paying him for work that he should do, besides.

The returns from the second special election in school township No. 2, held on March 18th, having been received, the board counted the votes and declared the following result:

Director, Henry Herring; clerk, Wm. Austin; treasurer, W. F. Ponsford. Name, Crow, 21; Buffalo, 4; Waterbury, 3; Spring Vale, 1; Pleasant Vale, 1.

The name was derived from the creek that flows across the township.

Probably because of some possible error in the election, all of the above named officers were appointed to their positions by the county superintendent, May 27th, 1884.

Chapter 7.

The county organization had now been in existence three months and the machinery was in fair working order. Nearly all the officers had been appointed and qualified. On April 9th J. O. Gray, J. P., residing in Alpena township, made the first quarterly report one case, and a fine of \$1.00 collected. This was the only money collected in court for disobedience of the law, that year, and in fact the justices of the peace of the county have not in all the 25 years of the county's existence imposed fines enough payable to the county to pay for the books bought for their use by the county, during its first year.

At this session D. W. Spaulding of Brule county, presented his bill for transcribing the records from that county for the part of Buffalo that had been annexed to Jerauld. The amount was only \$15.75. The records were now all "at home," but unprotected against fire. The commissioners realized the necessity for a safe place in which to store the records. A safe was purchased and Commissioner Smart employed to bring it to Wessington Springs from Huron. The board was urged to select a permanent location for the county buildings and proceed with the erection of a court house with vaults at once. Numerous proposals had been received and more offers were made. In one case the county was offered land to the amount of five thousand dollars if the court house should be located on the tract offered. Of course, the commissioner could do nothing about a final location of the buildings until after the November election, at which time the county seat would be permanently fixed.

Four candidates for the location of the county seat were before the people, Wessington Springs, Templeton, Waterbury and Crow Lake. Mr. Ingham, who had purchased Mr. Dunham's interest in the Jerauld County News, moved the paper to the Templeton postoffice and began urging that location for the seat of county government.

In the spring Mr. Ingham sold the paper to J. E. McNamara, of Rock Rapids, Iowa, a man of considerable ability as a writer. The greatest drawback to the Templeton candidacy was the want of water. All the water for use at the postoffice, store, and dwelling had to be drawn nearly a mile from a well near the south line of the section on M. D. Crow's homestead. Mr. J. N. Cross, the owner of the Templeton quarter section—the NE of 7—107—65, made almost frantic efforts to find water. D. O. Hewitt, who owned a well augur, bored several holes a hundred feet deep and Wm. Skinner and Joe Collier, with carefully selected twigs, "witched" for water, but of no avail. All the holes were dry.

As a last resort the advocates of Templeton for county seat abandoned that place and had a town surveyed on the SW of 24 in township 107—66, which they named Lyndale, in honor of the man who permitted them to offer his farm for county honors. The Jerauld County News was moved to the new location and Mr. H. A. Robinson of Logan township, put up a store building and opened a small dry goods and grocery store. The people were small in numbers but great in enthusiasm. Had the people of the west side been united the result might have been different, but with three candidates in the two west tiers of townships the contest could hardly be a successful one.

In view of all the county seat agitation it was idle to think of locating the county buildings until after the people had decided the matter.

In the meantime the commissioners and the newly appointed officers went ahead with the county affairs.

The two officers upon whom fell the most arduous labors were the assessor and school superintendent. The latter was untiring in his efforts to perfect the school system of the county. The townships had to be organized, the officers instructed in their duties, under a system new to them, as well as to the county superintendent, bonds were issued, school houses built, teachers examined, schools supplied and opened and a thousand unmentioned little things that enter into the duties of that office, even in normal condition, multiplied incessantly in the establishment of an entirely new system. Add to all this the many neighborhood quarrels over school locations and the employment of teachers that were sure to bring upon him the censure of all but one faction, if he interfered, and of all, if he did not, the criticisms of political rivals and factions—for politics was "red hot" in those days—and only the experienced can even imagine the trials Mr. Hazard encountered.

During the fore part of May, 1884, Mr. Wilson appointed as deputy assessors, B. F. Gough, of 106—64; M. D. Crow of Media, and George G. Strong, of 107—66. Every quarter section was visited, all improvements inspected, town lots examined and a valuation, necessarily arbitrary, placed upon all. The work was done and the records of the equalization board show less of complaints than any other assessment in the life of the county.

At the April session, 1884, the board fixed the compensation of the register of deeds for performing the duties of county clerk, now called county auditor, at \$200 per year.

Chapter 8.

One of the greatest troubles of all countries, new or old, is the roads and of this the first board of Jerauld county commissioners had their share. It was the desire of this body of men to plan and carry out a system of highways. Mr. Smart remarked that all roads should "lead to Rome." Mr. Melcher responded that "Crow Lake is as much Rome as Wessington Springs." The result of this undercurrent of strife between the two commissioners was that two systems were started, having two central points in the county. Mr. Fischer was satisfied if he could get a road near his farm in 107—63. This satisfied Mr. Smart, for it made Wessington Springs the west end of that road. The only town in Mr. Fischer's part of the county was left to get on as best it could without official representation on the county board.

The road district overseers that had been appointed on the 5th of February had done nothing because of a misconception of the law then existing, that section lines were not highways until so declared by the county commissioners. By the time the board met in April the melting snow, full-running streams and numerous water holes over the county, caused a deluge of petitions for established roads and bridges.

The bridge authorized on the second day of the first session of the board, Nov. 10, 1883, had been built and short approaches made, but it was found that in that case as in nearly all others the building of a bridge, while essential, is but a small part of the work necessary to a good crossing of a stream. A high hill, or bank, on the east side of the Firesteel creek must be cut down and a long stretch of turnpike made on the west side.

On the 8th day of April, 1884, the commissioners appointed Wm. Hawthorne, Elza J. Meutzer and J. M. Corbin viewers to report on the most practicable route for a road from Wessington Springs to Waterbury. The county surveyor was ordered to find the most practicable place for a crossing of the Firesteel creek. The next day Messrs. Melcher and Fischer, with Surveyor Wallace, Sheriff Spears, Postmaster Barrett, E. B. Orr and Silas Kinney went to the Firesteel and examined the section line between sections 14 and 23, where bridge No. 1 had already been constructed. There they met Messrs. Nave, Haven and Rumberger, from the Woonsocket board of trade. They found bridge No. 1 surrounded with water, but unapproachable because of the soft condition of the water-soaked approaches. After floundering through the mud and water on this line they examined the one a mile further north. This looked as bad as the other and they decided to do nothing until the surveyor had submitted his report.

The next day the surveyor was ordered to survey crossings on Sand Creek on the line leading to Alpena from the west between section 1 and 12—108—64, also the crossing on the line between 26 and 27—108—63, also the crossing of Long Slough between sections 10 and 3—108—63. He was also instructed to go to 106—66 (Crow Lake) and survey a crossing of Smith creek between sections 26 and 27.

On May 1st the surveyor reported on the first three of the crossings. He said the crossing between sections 1 and 12—108—64 required a bridge 64 feet long and would cost about \$275. That the bridge between sections 26 and 27—108—63 should be 60 feet long and would cost about the same. He reported that in the long slough the citizens had already put up a bridge twenty feet in length, but that 890 cubic yards of grading was needed.

The 3rd of June the board had another meeting at which on motion of Mr. Melcher, Messrs. Smart and Fischer were appointed a committee to examine the proposed Sand creek crossings, and intermediate points, to report at the July meeting. There is no record of any report having been made, except to number the bridge between 10 and 11—108—63 as No. 8. On July 10th O. F. Woodruff, who owned a farm on the south side of Sand creek, appeared before the board and urged the immediate construction of the bridges across that stream in accordance with the numerous petitions that had been filed.

A few days later, July 16th, Commissioner Fischer was authorized to build two bridges across Sand creek, one between sections 1 and 12—108—64 to cost not to exceed \$100, and one on the line between sections 20 and 21 to cost not to exceed \$150. He was also authorized to put in a bridge across the Firesteel on the line between sections 26 and 35—106—64, to cost not over \$100.

The greater part of the July session was devoted to the subject of roads and bridges. Many section lines were declared highways and some were vacated, some of the "legal advisers" of whom the board had many, contending that all section lines had been made highways by acts of congress and the territorial legislature. In 106—67 (Logan) the following lines were vacated: Commencing at the quarter stake between sections 33 and 34 running north one and one-half mile to the northwest corner of section 27; also commencing at the southwest corner of section 28, running east one and one-quarter miles. In lieu of the highway so vacated a new one was established as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of section 33, running north one-half mile to the quarter stake between sections 33 and 34, thence east one-quarter mile, thence north on the 80 rod line and one and one-half miles to the intersection with the east and west road.

With reference to the highways in township 106—66 it was ordered that "all roads leading from Crow Lake shall start at low water mark."

On the 16th of July the viewers of the Waterbury road having reported, the following record was made: "On motion the report of the road viewers on road from Wessington Springs to Waterbury was accepted and a road, 66 feet in width, ordered established." This does not seem to have settled the matter, however, for a year later, July 9th, 1885, we find the county commissioners again considering the best route for a road over the Wessington hills.

On July 7th, 1884, the board made an order making the boundaries of road districts identical with the school townships and appointing overseers as follows:

Franklin—A. L. Eager.
 Anina—S. S. Moore.
 Logan—A. S. Fordham.
 Chery—W. N. Hill.
 Dale—Francis Eastman.
 Blaine—J. M. Wheeler.
 Media—B. F. Swatman.

Chapter 9.

The returns having been received from the special election held April 26th, 1884, in the three school townships numbered 13, 14 and 15 (Chery, Media and Anina) the board on the 1st of May resolved itself into a canvassing board. The results in the different townships was:

No. 13—

Director—C. W. Hill.
 Clerk—P. B. Davis.
 Treasurer—Michael Schaefer.

Name—Chery, 17; Turtle Valley, 15. The name was in honor of Mr. C. M. Chery, a veteran of the civil war, one of the early settlers of the township and a man respected by all who knew him.

No. 14—

Director—A. S. Beals.
 Clerk—E. L. DeLine.
 Treasurer—Theo. Dean.

Name—Center, 12; Emma, 10; Templeton, 2.

No. 15—

Director—Orzo Kellogg.

Clerk—Alonzo Cady.

Treasurer—S. S. Moore.

Name—No choice. Four votes were cast for "Butler," four for "Prospect" and one for ———. This result placed the duty of naming the township upon the county commissioners. When the matter was brought up the next day Commissioner Melcher remarked, "Four and four make eight and one is nine, let's name it Anina."

The naming of townships was again before the board on the 7th of July. The territorial auditor to whom the names had been certified, had for various reasons rejected several and the commissioners were instructed to substitute. They named 106—66 Crow Lake, instead of Custer; 107—66 Pleasant, instead of Pleasant Valley; 106—67 Blaine, instead of Lincoln; 106—67 Logan, instead of Lake; 107—65 Media, instead of Center.

Thereafter the townships of the county were referred to by their names instead of numbers in official proceedings.

In the summer of 1883 John Lawton settled on the NW quarter of section 20, in Harmony township. With him was his wife and five children. In the fore part of April, 1884, several members of the family were taken ill. The disease soon developed into diphtheria. The house was the ordinary claim shanty, everywhere found in those days and the means of caring for the sick were extremely limited. Because of the dangers of spreading the terrible contagion the neighbors shrank from visiting them. Almost alone and unaided the mother saw her husband and children sicken and die. A young man named Anson Beals, living on the NW of section 30, of the same township, with a courage that won the admiration of all, gave his entire time to caring for the stricken family. He cared for the living and buried the dead. When the malady had run its course five new made graves, but a short distance from the shanty, marked the resting place of as many members of the family. May 1st, the matter being brought to the attention of the board of commissioners, Mr. Fischer and Sheriff Spears were appointed a committee to investigate the case and make report. They reported on the 9th that they had inspected the premisses and found that all of the members of the family were dead but two, Mrs. Lawton and one little girl had escaped the disease. They had instructed Anson Beals to burn the building and contents, which had been done. They estimated the property to be worth \$50. The board issued a warrant to Mrs. Lawton to compensate her for the loss of the property. At the special session on the 2nd of June, 1884, the board ordered a war-

rant for \$35 drawn "in favor of Anson Beals as a partial recognition of his heroic services in caring for the Lawton family" and on Nov. 14 following the board rebated his tax for that year for the same reason. Neither the warrant nor the rebating taxes was intended as compensation for an act of such unselfish heroism, but only as an expression of the appreciation by the public of what the young man had done.

On June 4th the commissioners appointed a board of insanity, composed of H. M. Rice, probate judge; A. M. Mathias, physician, and M. C. Ayers, lawyer. The appointment of this board was occasioned by the mental derangement of Emer Berjelland of Blaine township.

Chapter 10.

One of the most important sessions in the history of the first board was the one which began on the 7th day of July. In addition to road and bridge matters that occupied so much of their attention, the commissioners had before them the work of equalizing the assessment of the county.

The board of equalization was formed on the second day of the session, Mr. Smart continuing as chairman. The first act of the new board was to exempt from taxation the property of Lettie Berjelland, whose husband had become insane.

Much of the land was still held under homestead pre-emption or timber culture entries and was not assessable. In the four villages of the county the most of the lots shown by the recorded plats were held by the townsite owners. In Wessington Springs, at the time of assessment, but 60 lots had been sold, the balance being assessed to Scott, Burr, Bowen and Barrett.

In Alpena but 30 lots had been sold, the remainder standing in the name of the C. M. & St. P. Ry.

In Waterbury 32 lots had been sold, all the others being assessed to E. S. and D. H. Waterbury.

Sulphur Spring was all assessed to Burrpee, Miller and Cooley, the townsite company, except five lots that had been sold.

The highest assessments in Alpena on town lots were on two lots, \$350 each; one being lot 7, block 8, owned by the railway company, and the other lot 14, in block 3, owned by F. W. Whitney.

In Wessington Springs the highest assessment on a single lot was \$625 on lot 16, block 9, owned by Sarah L. Barrett. Lots 12, 13 and 14 in block 11, owned by L. H. Tarbell, were assessed together at \$2300.

The highest valuation put by the assessor upon single lots in Waterbury was on lots 17 and 18 in block 3, both owned by H. M. Rice.

Two hundred and thirty dollars on the hotel property, lot 8, in block 6, owned by C. A. Conrad and R. A. Wheeler, was the highest real estate assessment in Sulphur Springs.

In the various townships of the county the highest valuations were as follows:

In Alpena township the following lands were valued at \$600 each:

Edward Barnes, NE of 14.

Fred Gewald, SE of 14.

James Gregory, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE 15.

Dan A. McKay, NW of 24.

Isaac Pearce, SE of 24.

Blaine—NE of 17, \$900, tax \$27.27, owned by John Ahlers.

Franklin—SE of 14, \$650, tax \$9.95, owned by Andrew Hessdorfer.

Viola—NE of 30, \$1135, tax \$40.07, owned by J. A. Tyner.

Wessington Springs—NW of SW W half of NW and NE of NW of 7, \$1,000, tax \$35.30, owned by Harmon E. Clendenning.

Dale—21 quarters were assessed at \$500 each, the tax was \$22.65 per quarter.

Anina—SE of 18, \$1,000, tax \$30.30, owned by Joseph Motl.

Media—NE of 7, \$2600, tax, \$73.58, owned by J. N. Cross.

Chery—NE of 19, \$563, tax, \$14.26, owned by Helen L. Thomas.

Crow Lake—N half SW and N half SE of 23, \$1500, tax, \$22.95, owned by Vauren Dusek.

Pleasant—SW of 18, owned by J. M. Maxwell, \$950, and NW of 23, by J. E. Sullivan. Tax on each \$28.79.

Harmony—NW 18, \$472, tax \$7.21, owned by Robert D. Titcomb.

Logan—SW 5, \$652, tax \$18.45, owned by James H. Young.

Crow—SE 28, \$723, tax \$25.50, owned by F. Merwin.

Marlar—SW 25, \$510, tax \$12.91, owned by J. W. Lamb.

The total valuation in the various townships was as follows:

	Per. Prop.	Real Prop.	Total
Blaine	19,647	18,590	38,237
Viola	22,522	12,825	35,347
Anina	19,013	5,550	24,563
Crow Lake	12,874	23,025	35,899
Logan	11,434	24,527	35,961
Franklin	16,282	10,000	26,682
Wessington Springs	22,733	27,590	50,323

Media	15,574	14,580	30,154
Pleasant	17,929	7,934	25,863
Crow	15,720	11,474	27,194
Alpena	19,753	27,976	47,729
Dale	8,892	13,850	23,742
Chery	18,729	21,437	40,166
Harmony	9,605	8,617	18,252
Marlar	9,702	4,217	13,919
Totals	241,809	232,222	474,031

The assessors' returns showed 1,111 voters in the county.

The record shows that in Logan, Crow, Marlar, Harmony and Chery the board reduced the valuation of land owned by non-residents 10 per cent and that owned by residents 20 per cent.

On July 12th the board settled with the treasurer and made the following report::

Receipts.

Amount received from Ter. Treas. tax on C. M. & St. P. R. . .	\$26.71
By J. O. Gray, J. P. fine collected	1.00
Total	\$27.71

Expenditures.

Amt. paid on warrant, No. 1	\$6.34
Treas. fees	1.10
Total	\$7.44

Balance on hand \$20.27

On the first day of Sept., 1884, the board fixed the rate of taxation for the county as follows:

- Road fund, 2 mills.
- Bridge fund, 2 mills.
- County school fund, 2 mills.
- Ordinary county fund, 6 mills.
- Total, 12 mills.

The Territorial tax had been already levied by the territorial officers, the amount being 3½ mills.

Anina township filed a petition on the 2nd of September, asking for civil township government. It was referred and never heard of again.

On Sept. 10th the board fixed the polling places and appointed the election judges for the first general election in the county. Again there was a complete change in the boundaries of the election precincts. The numbers were dropped and the precincts were designated by the names adopted for the school townships. Each precinct was named from the township in which the election was held. For this election the precincts and officers were as follows:

Blaine—and all of Viola lying east of Firesteel creek, at residence of Joseph Steichen. Judges, J. M. Wheeler, C. C. Wright and M. W. Young.

Franklin—and all of Wessington Springs, lying east of the Firesteel creek, at residence of Wm. Houmes. Judges, Owen Williams, Wm. J. Houmes and W. P. Pierce.

Alpena—At F. W. Whitney's store. Judges, J. O. Gray, Wm. H. Arne and Chas. Eastman.

Viola—That part of the township lying west of the Firesteel creek, at home of J. N. Smith. Judges, J. N. Smith, B. F. Gough, Jonas Tyner.

Wessington Springs—All that part of the township lying west of the Firesteel creek, also the east one-half of sections 1, 12 and 13 of Media and all that part of Dale township lying west of the Firesteel creek, to be held at the court house (register of deeds office) in Wessington Springs. Judges, Wm. Hawthorne, M. C. Ayers and E. V. Miles.

Dale—All that part of Dale and Chery lying east of the Firesteel creek, at residence of A. Mercer. Judges, A. Mercer, E. A. Palmer, O. W. Richardson.

Anina—At home of Ozro Kellogg. Judges, A. D. Cady, W. R. Day.

Media—All except that part given to Wessington Springs, at home of T. A. McGinnis. Judges, T. A. McGinnis, Geo. Bennett, W. I. Bateman.

Chery—All except that part lying east of Firesteel creek, at home of C. W. Hill. Judges, C. W. Hill, J. W. McCullough, C. M. Chery.

Crow Lake—At home of L. Deinderfer. Judges, Thos. Henning, John Conley, B. F. Jones.

Pleasant—At home of O. E. Gaffin. Judges, O. E. Gaffin, S. Sowerwine, John E. Sullivan.

Harmony—At home of I. N. Rich. Judges, I. N. Rich, Wm. Brimmer, J. R. Eddy.

Logan—Home of H. A. Robinson. Judges, Wm. Niemeyer, A. S. Fordham, J. B. Long.

Crow—At office of A. Remington in Waterbury. Judges, Wilber N. Cross, H. E. Merwin, J. E. Herman.

Marlar—At home of J. J. Groub. Judges, B. F. Marlar, J. W. Lamb, J. J. Groub.

Acting on the advice of the attorney general of the Territory, the board on the 6th day of November fixed the length of the terms of their successors, giving the one receiving the highest number of votes the three year term; next two years and the lowest one year. This gave Mr. J. E. Sullivan the long term and Mr. Fischer the short term.

The organization of the county was now complete. Nothing remained for the first board to do. On the 3rd day of January, 1885, the outgoing board settled with the treasurer and made report as follows:

Receipts.

Taxes collected	\$622.39
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Expenditures.

Receipts and warrants redeemed	\$64.22
Treas. fees	24.89

Total	\$89.11

Cash on hand	\$533.28

Chapter 11.

While the county commissioners were striving to frame a county government other things were being done within the county that were of at least equal importance.

On the 28th of September, 1883, a meeting had been held at the instance of Mr. A. B. Smart, to offer inducements to the M. E. church of Dakota Territory to locate their university at Wessington Springs. The matter was earnestly considered and a proposition made, but other towns and cities were in the field to get the much desired institution and Wessington Springs failed to secure it.

In the fore part of November a move was made to get the Erie Telephone Co. to put in a line from Wessington Springs to Woonsocket. This also failed.

About the first of September, 1883, the townsite company began putting in a system of waterworks connecting the big spring with Main street. The pipe ran east from the spring and entered 2d street south of the Applegate building and then north along the east side of 2d street

to the middle of Main street. This work was completed about the middle of November. A pipe coming out of the ground at the end of the system made a very pretty fountain that for two years poured a constant stream. In a few weeks after fountain was established a mound of ice was formed that almost rendered the street impassable. A large reservoir was made and walled up with stone where the spring came out of the hill. A dam was put across the lower part of the pond and under it the pipe ran that carried the water to the village. A sluiceway at the top of the dam carried off the surplus water in a pretty cascade into the little creek that ran down through the grove. The low bushes and underbrush were cut out of the grove, rustic seats built and bridges put across the stream. In this way the company made the beginning of what they intended should be one of the most beautiful parks in the territory. For a number of years the grove about the spring was the spot to which all picnic parties came from all parts of the county.

In October, 1883, Rev. J. G. Campbell, then one of the ablest preachers in the territory, was made pastor of the M. E. church at Wessington Springs. Religious services were thereafter held in the church building, although the seats were made of boards.

Strenuous efforts were made by the community for fitting Christmas festivities. On the 24th of December the church chairs arrived and put in place for the people who that evening attended the Christmas tree exercises in the new church. The new church building was dedicated Sept. 7th, 1884. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. I. N. Pardee. The building was entirely paid for when dedicated. The ladies' mite society had bought and paid for a carpet that cost \$44.25 and had also purchased a new organ upon which they had paid \$28.79. The building committee that had charge of the church construction was C. W. McDonald, president of the board of trustees, and R. S. Bateman. The church trustees at this time were Lucius T. Tarble, Chas. W. McDonald, Silas Kinney, R. S. Bateman, Harry Russe, F. T. Tofflemier.

The M. E. conference in October, 1884, appointed W. D. Luther to succeed Mr. Campbell as pastor of the church.

Other churches were organized in the county in 1884, one being the M. E. church at Alpena and the other the Friends church in Harmony township. The names of the charter members of neither of these organizations seem to be obtainable. The church at Alpena was incorporated June 21st, 1884, under the pastorate of Rev. O. E. Hutchins. Rev. L. C. Burch received the conference appointment for this church in October, 1884.



H. D. Fisher.



Mrs. A. B. Smart.



Geo. R. Bateman.



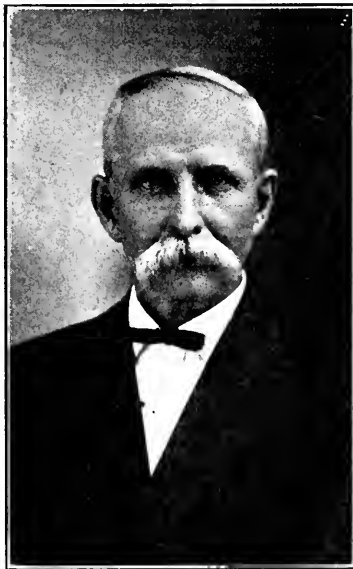
A. E. Turrill.



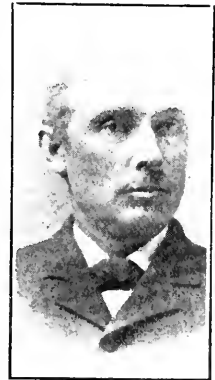
James A. McDonald



E. V. Miles.



Chas. W. McDonald.



Ray Barber.

At Waterbury and Sulphur Springs the religious services were conducted by Rev. John Cooley, C. V. Martin, Wm. Paganhart, S. F. Huntley and others. The Methodists and Presbyterians each had a church organization at Waterbury, but the records seem to have been lost. Neither society had a church building. The Sulphur Springs church building which had not been completed was moved to Waterbury, finished and made a public hall. This occurred in the early part of 1884 and ended the church history of Sulphur Springs.

Additional Sunday schools were organized in the different townships of the county in the year 1884.

In the Young settlement in Blaine township near Parsons a Sunday school was organized on the 20th of April, with Mr. I. Young, supt.; Fred Kieser, asst. supt.; Henry Wilson, sec.; D. W. Young, treas.

In Viola township religious services were held at the residence of J. N. Smith during the fall and winter of 1884—85, conducted alternately by Mr. Smith and L. F. Daniels. The meetings were held weekly.

In Anima township a Sunday School was organized August 10th, 1884, at the residence of Mr. Williams, with Gordon McDonald as superintendent.

A Sunday School was organized at the residence of S. Souerwine in Pleasant township, April 27th, 1884, with fifteen members. Supt., A. J. Miller; Ass't. Supt., Mrs. H. C. Sowerwine; Sec'y., Miss Josie Pryne; Treas., Gailey.

In Wessington Springs township a Sunday School was conducted at the residence of Mrs. Williams on the east side of Firesteel creek, until in October, 1884, when it was changed to the home of Wm. Hawthorne.

An organization by the name of Eden Valley Sunday school in Alpena township, was conducted there the winter of 1884—85. The society had thirty members.

In Chery township, after the school houses were built, a Sunday school was organized by T. L. White, Mr. and Mrs. Kinney, Mr. and Mrs. Georgia, Mrs. Townsend, Ed Linn, W. R. Lanning and others, at the Kinney school house. After the organization of the Sabbath school religious services were held at this school house regularly with preaching by Mrs. Huntley, I. N. Rich, F. M. Brown and others.

As we have already seen, temperance work in Jerauld county began at an early date in its history. Wessington Springs was the center from which this influence radiated to all parts of the county.

It is certain that no other person did so much to create a sentiment against the establishment of saloons in the county as Mrs. A. B. Smart. She was a member of the territorial W. C. T. U. and vice president of that organization for Jerauld county. On the 28th day of May, 1884,

she made the beginning of organized temperance work in the county. On that day, in pursuance of a call previously issued, she entertained a number of ladies at her residence and perfected a local organization which they named the Pioneer W. C. T. U. The officers of this society were: Mrs. C. M. Spears, president; Mrs. A. O. Jordan, vice president; Mrs. L. S. Shryock, recording secretary; Mrs. R. J. Smart, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Jane E. Bateman, treasurer.

From the organization of the Pioneer W. C. T. U. dates the systematic and aggressive temperance work in the county.

A county W. C. T. U. was organized Aug. 13, 1884, with Mrs. Smart, president; Mrs. S. F. Huntley, corresponding secretary; Miss Dona, recording secretary; Mrs. D. W. Shryock, treasurer, and a vice president in each township.

A county temperance alliance was organized with R. Y. Hazard, president; Wm. Hawthorne, vice president, and S. F. Huntley, secretary.

On the day preceding that on which these two county organizations were perfected a county mass convention had been held at which much enthusiasm was manifested.

On the 20th of June, 1884, the society obtained the use of one column of the Wessington Springs Herald for the publication of temperance articles. Thenceforth the W. C. T. U. column was a regular feature of that publication. The work was soon extended to all the other papers in the county and has been continued to the present time. A temperance alliance society was formed of which only voters were members, with Owen Williams as vice president, for Wessington Springs township. In November, 1884, a temperance circulating library was established. In December of that year a temperance literary society was organized in Franklin township.

Many business changes occurred in the county during the year 1884.

On December 22, 1883, the Bender drug store, that had up to that time been run by Chas. P. Taylor, in Wessington Springs, shut up shop and left the town.

In March, 1884, A. B. Smart put up a building on the west side of 3rd street a few blocks north of Main street and in it Dr. A. M. Mathias of Brooklyn, N. Y., opened a drug store in May.

Stephen Bros. went out of business in the winter of 1883—84 and in April, 1884, J. J. Barnes of Plankinton, started a drug store in the Stephens building.

Chas. W. McDonald and W. I. Bateman organized the Jerauld County Bank in March, 1884. The next month M. D. and C. E. Thayer visited Wessington Springs on the 24th to look over the situation with a view to starting a private bank. These gentlemen were so well pleased with

the location that they returned in a few days when C. E. Thayer arranged for the construction of a residence in the northwest part of the village, and rented of a lady named Ada L. Smith, lot 12, block 10, on the north side of Main street paying therefor a rental of \$6.00 per year, but reserving the right to remove such improvements as he might make thereon. He then erected a building on the Smith lot at a cost of about \$50, painted the word "Bank" across the front of the structure, and on the 25th day of July, 1884, opened his institution for business.

In the fore part of May J. H. Woodburn purchased the Applegate building and made it into a hotel, which he named the Woodburn House.

J. H. Vessey and Allan Ransom formed a partnership and began a mercantile business on the 31st of May, that under different managements has continued to the present time. In October this firm was strengthened by the admission of S. H. Albert and R. S. Vessey as partners. The firm then built a branch store at Crow Lake, which was continued for several years.

The first attempt to do a millinery business in Wessington Springs was by a lady named Harris, who located in J. F. Ford's office on the north side of Main street.

On August 20th Silas Kinney sold his store building and stock of goods to N. D. Wilder, who continued the business until the next year.

In other parts of the county business matters were equally active.

At Crow Lake a firm by the name of Lodge & Derrick built a store building and put in a stock of groceries. This was done in June.

In April, 1884, a man named Mills, who had worked at blacksmithing in Wessington Springs, in 1883, went to Crow Lake and began work in a shop that had been erected for him there.

At Waterbury the postmaster, E. S. Waterbury, fitted up his office with the fixtures that he purchased from the Kimball office. This was in March.

About May 1st Rice & Herring sold their mercantile business to Pritchard & Kethledge, who came out that spring from some point in Iowa.

On July 4th Waterbury celebrated. But little is remembered, even by the oldest inhabitants, of the events of that day. All say, however, that the festivities were worthy of the time and place although Wessington Springs enticed their band away from them.

By this time Sulphur Springs had lost greatly in the struggle with her rival town for existence. Her church and blacksmith shop had gone across the valley to Waterbury and in the latter part of July her newspaper, "The Buffalo Herald," was sold to M. B. McNeil, who moved it to Duncan in Buffalo county and merged it in the American Home,

published at that place. In October Mr. McNeil moved his printing office back to Waterbury, which gave that place two newspapers.

On August 15, 1884, occurred the first death in Waterbury. A young man named John Murphy was digging a well on Henry Herring's residence lot east of Main street. When he entered the well in the morning he was overcome by foul air and died before he could be rescued. A grab hook was lowered and caught into the dead man's clothing. He was drawn about half way to the surface when the coat in which the hook was fastened appeared to be slipping. T. H. Null, the lawyer, volunteered to go down and fasten a rope about the body to prevent it falling back to the bottom of the well. This was done. After an appropriate funeral ceremony the body of Murphy was buried on the school section and there with one other victim of a tragic death it lies to this day.

Chapter 12.

It was a curious and anxious company that gathered about Dement & Leed's blacksmith shop in Waterbury one day in the autumn of 1883. For several days the two smiths had been busily at work manufacturing a piece of heavy artillery. Rumors were rife that great flocks of ducks were frequenting Cottonwood Lake in the north part of 108—66. No ordinary shot gun was considered equal to the opportunity and so at the instance of the sporting fraternity of the village the attempt had been made to make a vertiable cannon. Taking a piece of gas pipe about three feet in length they wound it with what wagonmakers and blacksmiths term "stake" iron. It is one inch wide and one-quarter inch thick. Having made a spiral winding with the stake iron solidly welded the whole length of the gas pipe, they reversed the spiral on about two feet of the first winding and then put a third winding over about a foot of the breach of the cannon, making the gun as they believed, strong enough to resist the explosive power of any load of powder that might be put into it. The gas pipe was then bored to make it smooth, a touch hole drilled through the iron casing of the breach, a strong breech pin put on and the thing was done. Now it was to be tested before being taken to the lake, and many were the guesses made by the crowd as they stood about the shop to see the wonderful duck gun tried. A large dry goods box was set up at a distance of 100 yards and the gun properly loaded, was trained on it through the open door of the shop. All were confident that the box would not be fit for ordinary kindling wood after the gun

was once fired. The thing was securely chained to a heavy saw-horse, when some one suggested that it might "bust." There was sufficient force in the suggestion to cause the onlookers to gather about the outside of the building and watch the result by peeping through cracks and knot holes. A long iron rod, that could be pushed through a hole in the side of the shop to the forge fire and then swung to the priming of the gun, was given to Joe Herring and then all waited for the iron to get hot. At last the end of the rod showed a tinge of red and Herring swung it to the touch hole of the gun. The noise was deafening. The great saw horse and cannon were lifted by the shock nearly to the joist of the building, but the gun had stood the strain, and so had the box, for not a shot had touched it. Afterward the cannon was provided with sights, and mounted on a frame so that it could be easily trained upon any object. It afforded much amusement in the hunting seasons and abundance of noise on succeeding Fourth of July celebrations for many years. Several of these miniature canons were afterward made, one of which is now said to be at Gann Valley.

In 1884 the business houses on the Main street of Waterbury were arranged about as follows:

The main, or business street of the town, ran north and south. Starting at the north end of Main street and going down the west side the first structure was a tent in which a Mr. Rowe had a tin-type gallery. Next to that, on the south and at the corner of the block was Mrs. Rowe's hotel, the Waterbury House, south of which ran an east and west street. A few years later this hotel was torn down and moved to Buffalo county. On the south side of this street and at the northeast corner of the block was a building put up by Maj. Rice, afterward Probate Judge, and Henry Herring, later a county commissioner. The building was two story 30x40. A few years later this building was sold to Mr. Wilbur Doughty, who moved it to the old C. V. Martin farm northeast of town and made it a part of a mammoth barn, which was struck by lightning and burned some time in the later '90s.

Then came Martin & Putnam's law office, a one story building, which was finally made a part of Martin's house on his farm.

Next came Allan Snart's grocery store, 20x32, afterward used for hardware and general merchandise by John Snart. This building was burned in the great prairie fire of April 28, 1899. It was two stories in height.

South of Snart's store stood Bert Brown's residence, a small building that had been brought from Sulphur Springs.

The next structure was J. M. Hull's drug store and general mer-

chandise store, afterward owned by O. P. Hull, and finally torn down and moved to Harvey, a suburb of Chicago, where it yet stands.

The "Michigan Hotel," built by Light and Stanley, stood next to Hull's drug store. This was the building in which Chas. Gingery was cared for after the great blizzard of 1888. It was finally sold to Fred Holzer, who moved it to a farm in Buffalo county.

At the southeast corner of the block was Geo. N. Price's residence. This was the hotel put up by Dr. Jones in 1883. A few years later it was sold to Bert Healy, who moved it to Wessington Springs and now occupies it as a residence.

On the northeast corner of the opposite block across the street south stood Price's livery barn. It also was later moved to Wessington Springs and made a part of the livery barn owned by Mr. Price at that place. It is now occupied by H. A. Butler. On the same lot a few years later Mr. Snart also built a barn which was also taken to the county seat.

By the side of Price's barn Sam Leeds' blacksmith shop was placed when it was brought over from Sulphur Springs. A few years later Homer Vrooman bought that building and took it to his farm in the east part of the township.

The next building was the last one on the west side of the street. It was the house, or shanty, brought out from Polo, Ill., by Ed and Dan Waterbury in February, 1883. It now forms a part of Clark Wetherell's house at the Waterbury P. O.

Then crossing the street east and going north the first building was a barn owned by E. S. Waterbury, although further south, where the ground begins to slope off into the valley, J. A. Paddock and Rufus Wilson had a livery barn, built into the side hill.

Fronting on the street about the middle of the block and north of Waterbury's barn, was Henry Merwin's wagon shop.

North of the wagon shop stood Wallace DeMent's blacksmith shop, in which the "canon" was made. Both these buildings were afterward bought by E. S. Waterbury and made a part of the barn above mentioned and burned in the fire of 1899.

On the northwest corner of this block was a building erected by John Eagan and Henry Bass for a flour and feed store. It was 20x30 feet in size, one and one-half stories high. Later the rooms above became bachelor quarters for 8 or 10 young fellows. The building was eventually taken away.

Then came an east and west street. On the north side of this street stood, where it now stands, the building now owned by W. E. Waterbury. The main part was used for a feed store, and contained the post office. Upstairs was the News printing office, founded by Samuel Dunlap in

June, 1883. This paper had several owners in the next few years, among them being, Remington, Cross, Dunlap and C. V. Martin, the latter combining it with the American Home and the name was then changed to "The Waterbury Home-News." It was finally sold to B. B. Blosser, of the True Republican, and taken into that office at Wessington Springs.

In the center of the crossing of the two streets a well was dug and walled up with stone. For twenty-five years it has afforded an abundance of the best of water for every thirsty creature that has passed that way.

North of the post office was an implement shed where E. S. Waterbury sold farm implements and by the north side of that was Frank and Harry Waterbury's meat market. Both of these buildings were one story structures. The machine shed was finally taken to E. S. Waterbury's homestead on the NE of 28—107—67, while the meat market building was taken to Harry Waterbury's claim in Buffalo county.

Next was the American Home printing office run by M. B. McNeil. That structure was moved by E. N. Mount to a claim held by him in Buffalo county.

Beside the American Home office was E. N. Mount's harness shop, in later years purchased by W. E. Waterbury for use on his homestead, the NE of 9—107—67, where it stayed until "proof" for the land was made, when it was brought back to town and sold to Bert Healey. He used it for a harness shop and notion store in Waterbury for some time, finally taking it to Wessington Springs, where he continued to use it for the same purpose until it was burned in the fire that destroyed M. A. Schaefer's drug store several years later.

Then came A. N. Hill's hardware store, a two story building, with living rooms up stairs. It now forms a part of Clark Wetherell's barn at Waterbury P. O., on the NW of 26—107—67.

By the side of the hardware store Mr. Hill put up a building intended for a temperance pool hall, and rented it to Wm. Eads. The enterprise was a failure and the table finally broken up. The building was moved away.

The next was a two story structure having a law office below, where T. H. Null, now of Huron, S. D., first hung out his sign as an attorney at law. This building was put up by a man named Bond. In the room occupied by Null in 1884 a man named Hart afterward had his real estate office for several years. In the rooms up stairs C. V. Martin, a year later had his printing office. What finally became of the building is not known.

On the same side of the street was an implement shed run by Val Martin, a real estate office by Remington and Pound, a shoe shop oc-

cupied by Pat Sweeney, now of Sioux City, and another shoe shop run by Chas. Haas. Somewhere on the east side of the street Will Eads had a furniture store, probably in the same building where he started his pool hall.

Late in the fall a public school house was built a few rods north of the business part of the town—about forty rods from the Waterbury House.

The first minister located at Waterbury was a man named Bain, of the Presbyterian church. He was in almost mortal fear of Indians and wolves. He took a claim a few miles from town and had a shanty built on it. During the first night of his stay on the claim, the wolves were so noisy and came so close to his shanty that he never repeated the venture. He always carried with him, when going out of town, a brace of revolvers and a couple of knives. He stayed only long enough to "prove up" on his claim and then returned to Ohio.

While business was developing at Waterbury, J. N. Cross was trying to establish a mercantile business at Templeton, but with poor success.

At Alpena, aided by the railroad, the business interests made more rapid growth.

In the spring of 1884, W. S. Crowthers started a livery stable, which he continued for several years.

New grain houses were built in the summer of 1884, one by D. R. Putnam & Co., which was run by J. T. Johnston and one by Bassett, Hunting & Co., operated by a young man named Milham. Both these warehouses were afterwards changed to elevators.

In this year Jack Crawford put up a blacksmith shop where he worked for a year or more.

On the 19th of May, 1884, Mrs. Mary Barber, and Miss Betsy Litchfield opened a hotel in the building that had been formerly used as a hardware store and named it the Revere House.

This year Chas. R. and D. S. Marwaring in company with Wm. Voss, began operating a lumber yard at Alpena.

On the northwest corner of Main and 2nd streets W. L. Arnold built a store used for general merchandise, which he occupied until 1886.

Chapter 13.

Educational work in the county began in 1883, with the numerous private, or subscription schools that were started in the various townships and continued until the public schools began in the summer and fall of 1884.

I think I have mentioned all the private schools taught in the county in 1883, except the one commenced by N. J. Dunham in the latter part of December, in the building purchased by the county commissioners in February, 1884, for the register of deeds office. In that school were four of Mr. Kinney's children, five of Mrs. Blowers', two of J. W. Thomas', Lewis Stephens, Harry Taylor, now mayor of Mellette, S. D., and John Woodburn, now postmaster at Hinsdale, Mass.

On January 14th, 1884, Miss Emma Cady began a private school with nineteen scholars in Rev. Wm. Paganhart's home in Viola township.

In the spring of 1884 Miss Rachel Crawford opened a school in a building near where the Dale Center school house now stands, which was attended by Mattie, Nellie and Robert Mercer, John and Rose Youngs, and Sarah, Mina and Lillie Chapman.

In the village of Waterbury Miss Hattie Waterbury taught a private school in the summer of 1884, in George Waterbury's house. Among the pupils were Clara Leeds, now Mrs. Wm. Fry of Aberdeen, Grace De Ment and children from the Prue, Rowe, Herring and Merwin families.

In the summer of 1884 Miss Ida Martin taught a school in Anina township that closed Aug. 23rd.

Early in the spring of 1884 Miss Helen Cooley taught a private school in a claim shanty near Sulphur Springs.

The school boards of some of the townships made preparations for starting the public schools as soon as the townships were organized for school purposes.

Supt. Hazard appointed the 1st day of April, 1884, for the examination of teachers.

The first public school to be opened in the county was in Pleasant township on the 5th day of May, 1884, with A. J. Miller as teacher.

In July, 1884, the old log house that Mr. Smart had purchased from Levi Hain several years before was repaired, seats and desks, of rude make, put in it, and there Mrs. E. V. Miles, opened the first public school taught in the present limits of the city of Wessington Springs.

The county school-text-book committee, composed of the following persons, as delegates from the townships of the county, met on the 28th of June, 1884, at the county building in the county seat to select the books to be used in the public schools:

Alpena—L. N. Loomis.

Custer (Media)—Theo. Dean.

Pleasant Valey—B. R. Shimp.

Wessington Springs—Wm. Hawthorne.

Lincoln (Blaine)—L. F. Daniels.

Viola—Fred Kieser.

Anina—A. D. Cady.

Of this committee, Supt. Hazard was chairman and B. R. Shimp was secretary.

The Pioneer W. C. T. U. sent to attend this very important meeting a committee of its members as follows: Mesdames Hall, Smart, Spears and Albert. These ladies presented a petition to the text-book committee, asking that temperance books be selected, including "Elementary Temperance Lessons for the Young" and "Steeles Hygienic Physiology," which were adopted. The committee then selected, "Robinson's Arithmetic," "Swinton's Geography," "Harvey's Grammar," "Ridpath's History," and "McGuffey's Readers and Spellers."

The first civil action brought in a Jerauld county court was the case of T. H. Null vs. B. R. Shimp, before F. T. Tofflemier in the spring of 1884. N. J. Dunham was attorney for the plaintiff and R. M. Magee for the defendant.

The first tax received by the county treasurer was from the C. M. & St. P. Ry. in the month of March, 1884, by way of the territorial treasurer, \$26.71 on four miles of track in Alpena township.

The first tax paid into the county treasury by a resident of the county was \$1.00 school poll, by S. H. Melcher.

The branding committee held its first meeting April 7th, 1884, R. S. Vessey was elected chairman. No records can be found of any of the proceedings of this committee.

Between May 2nd, 1883, and April 30th, 1884, three hundred and forty-five Jerauld county settlers made proof at the Mitchell U. S. Land Office for 55,200 acres of land.

The first matter to come up in the county probate court was the appointment of an administrator for the estate of Chas. Burger of Harmony township, who had been killed by lightning. The appointment was made May 5th, 1884.

In the summer and fall of 1884, railroad projects were numerous and some surveys were made. One was a line known as the Huron & Southwestern to reach the Missouri River by way of Wessington Springs.

In August of that year it was announced that a road would be built at once from Sioux Falls to the Missouri river, going through Jerauld county by way of Crow Lake and Waterbury to Fort Thompson.

In the summer of 1884 Mr. M. W. Young, of Blaine township, burned a kiln of 25,000 brick, which he offered for sale. This was the first and probably the only, effort ever made to establish a brick yard in the county. He took one wagon load to Wessington Springs on Sept. 10th, and for some time kept a notice running in the Herald offering the brick for sale at his farm in Blaine township.

The first auction sale ever held in the county was at the farm of J. A. McDonald, south-east of Wessington Springs, by Robert Johnston, who offered for sale 1 cow, 100 chickens, 1 Champion mower, some carpenter tools and house-hold goods. N. D. Wilder was auctioneer.

During the summer and fall of 1884, Hiram Blowers and Calvin Ott were dealing in grain at Wessington Springs.

The first coroner's inquest in the county was on the body of Allan Brayton, at the residence of Mr. Barber in Franklin. The Coroner was Dr. D. F. Royer and the jury was composed of Isaac Pearce, F. W. Whitney and W. C. Corother. The date of the inquest was May 23rd, 1884. The verdict was, death by accidental shooting.

F. T. Tofflemier resigned his position as Justice of the Peace July 7, 1884, and M. C. Ayers was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In November, 1884, Mrs. Spears began building the office part of the Willard Hotel on the corner lot south of Wilder's store.

Several changes were made in the mail service of the county during the year 1884. On the 1st of March the line from Elmer (Wessington Springs), to Huron was discontinued and a daily line established between Elmer and Woonsocket.

A post office named Gordon was located in October at the residence of Elijah Moon on section twenty-six in Anina township. It was supplied by the Elmer-Plankinton line.

In Chery township Stock P. O. was established in June, with M. E. Small as postmaster.

On May 1, 1884, the Elmer-White Lake mail line was changed from a weekly to a semi-weekly service, leaving Elmer Tuesdays and Fridays, and returning Wednesdays and Saturdays.

A tri-weekly mail service was established between Elmer and Waterbury, on July 1st, with G. N. Price as carrier. The round trips were made on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, leaving Elmer in the morning and returning in the evening. The compensation was \$390 per year.

One of the most gratifying things done for the people of Wessington Springs by the Post Office Department was changing the name of the office from "Elmer" to that of the town in which it was situated. For months the people had petitioned for the change without success. Many

had despaired of getting their wish granted. But Mr. Peter Barrett, the postmaster kept up hope and persevered. At a meeting of the board of county commissioners in the summer of 1884, Mr. Barrett made an offer of twenty-five dollars to anyone who would get the change effected. Mr. Melcher, one of the commissioners, told him to renew his petition, setting forth in it that the school township and the platted village were both named Wessington Spring, that the newspaper published in the town was named the Wessington Springs Herald, then have it signed by the county officials and bring it to him. This was done. Mr. Melcher then sent the petition to his personal friend, Gen. John Eaton, at Washington, with a letter requesting that he go personally to the Postmaster General and ask that the change be made. The petition was granted at once and the change made to take effect October 1, 1884. Mr. Barrett paid the twenty-five dollars by giving Mr. Melcher a deed to a lot in Wessington Springs, which he held for several years and then sold to O. J. Marshall.

In the winter of 1883—84, Mr. Stetson, who kept the Stetson P. O. in 106—66, proved up on his land and then resigned his position as postmaster. The office was then moved to Chancy Barber's house on the NW of 35, where Mr. Barber kept a small stock of groceries. In the latter part of May, 1884, Mrs. O. E. Gaffin became postmistress and took charge of the office, which she retained until the office was moved to Lyndale and the name changed, March 1, 1885.

In May 1884, the people of Wessington Springs and vicinity began to make preparations for a Fourth of July celebration. Mr. T. D. Kanouse, one of the foremost orators of the territory was engaged to deliver an address; the Waterbury brass band was employed, and many games advertised. On the 31st of May, those interested in the base-ball held a meeting and organized a team, with J. T. Johnston as captain. The team began practice on a diamond located near where the Universalist church stands. In June a challenge was sent to the ball nine at Woonsocket for a match game at Wessington Springs on July 4th. The challenge was not accepted and an invitation was then extended to Alpena. Here they found a team willing to cross bats with them and arrangements were perfected.

In the latter part of June, Mr. A. S. Beals and Mr. Hindman were employed to make a liberty pole which was set up on the 2nd of July, at the center of the crossing of Main and Second Streets.

A galvanized iron tank made by Morse and LaPout was placed over the big spring and the water works pipe extended into it so that people on the street could have cold water direct from the fountain head.

The celebration was a success, for although a storm cut short the oration, the ball game was won by the home nine with a score of 23 to

15. This was the beginning of ball playing in the county and led to many close and exciting games in the years that followed.

A county fair association was organized June 4th, 1884, with O. G. Woodruff, of Alpena, president and M. D. Crow, of Media, secretary. The committee on bylaws was composed of J. F. Ford, of Wessington Springs, H. A. Pierce, of Harmony and M. D. Crow. At the organization twenty-six shares were sold at \$10 each. This amount was increased to sixty shares on July 16th, and was further advanced to one hundred on July 23rd. The society then proceeded to incorporate the members mentioned in the charter being E. S. Waterbury, S. H. Melcher and J. F. Ford. After incorporation the association elected permanent officers as follows:

President—O. G. Woodruff.

Vice President—E. S. Waterbury.

Secretary—J. F. Ford.

Treasurer—S. H. Melcher.

Executive Committee—W. J. Williams, W. I. Bateman, B. G. Cummings, W. T. Hay, and Wm. Austin.

The dates set for the fair were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1884. For exhibition three hundred and forty-one entries were made. First premiums were awarded as follows:

S. H. Melcher—2 yr. grade Durham heifer; Suffolk sow and pigs; Suffolk sow; and best display of farm products and garden peas.

M. W. Young—2 yr. bull; roadster stallion; and stallion for all purposes.

C. W. Hill—Durham cow; 4 yr. thorobred bull; thorobred Durham calf; early potatoes, late potatoes and pumpkins.

O. G. Woodruff—Grade Durham bull five years old.

Mrs. E. H. Wheeler—Thorobred calf.

L. G. Wilson—Six-year-old Jersey cow.

B. F. Eagle—Two-year-old stallion; 1 yr. old filley; and carriage team.

W. T. Hay—One-year-old horse colt.

L. F. Russell—Four-year-old gelding; span of two-year-old mares; three-year-old mare; best team for all purposes.

Ed Dwyer—Spring colt.

E. Nesmith—Three-year-old stallion.

O. F. Woodruff—Farm or draft stallion.

R. Vanderveen—Draft team.

John Dukes—Two coarse-wool bucks; two coarse-wool ewes; 1 yr. buck and flock of five sheep.

C. B. Blake—Fine-wool bucks; fine-wool ewes.

H. Blowers—Three pigs.

W. Brownell—One boar pig.

M. A. Cummings—1 yr. old Berkshire boar.

R. M. Magee—Best display of poultry.

E. H. Ford—Plymouth Rock fowl.

S. Young—Pekin ducks.

J. S. Lynn—Flax.

Wm. Arne—Onions.

W. Towner—Squashes.

J. O. Shryock—Cabbage.

H. Lowder—Field corn.

E. L. DeLine—Carrots.

Lady Equestrian—1st prize, Maud Tofflemier; 2nd, Mrs. K. Shryock.

In the baby show W. V. Dixon's baby girl won 1st prize, \$10, offered by Mr. P. R. Barrett.

Chapter 14.

Politics, like the buffalo, the Indian and Coyotes, seems to be indigenous to South Dakota. From the fact that white men seemed to become imbued with it as soon as they crossed the boundary line, in the old territorial days, the idea has become prevalent that the disease was here ahead of them.

The first political meeting in Jerauld county, after its organization, was in April, 1884. The occasion was the election of one delegate to represent the county at the territorial republican convention called to meet at Huron April, 23, to select delegates to the national convention.

The meeting was held at the office of the register of deeds, April 19th and was a "Masse" affair composed of eleven or twelve voters. N. J. Dunham was selected as the delegate.

The first regular caucus held in the county was the one which met at the county building in Wessington Springs on Feb. 15th, 1884, for the purpose of nominating school officers and a name for the school township. The first motion was by Mr. A. B. Smart in nominating W. I. Bateman for the chairmanship of the meeting. After the caucus had disposed of the business pertaining to the schools, it proceeded to elect a county committeeman for the Republican party of the county, that was expected to be formed in the near future, and also a Republican township committee. J. F. Ford was elected to the county committee, and E. L.

DeLine, W. I. Bateman and C. W. McDonald were made a committee for the precinct.

It had been planned to have the same course followed in all the townships, but some neglected it and only the following members were elected to the county committee.

Wessington Springs—J. F. Ford.

Crow—U. E. Babb.

Harmony—H. A. Pierce.

Franklin—I. P. Ray.

A call for a meeting of the committee to be held on May 4th, 1884, was made by Mr. Ford, about the middle of May. The committee met at the time appointed and preceeded to organize the party for the county by filling the vacancies in the county committee and appointing a committee of three for each township. J. F. Ford was elected chairman of the county committee and M. D. Crow, secretary. The township committees were as follows:

Marlar—J. M. Corbin, Frank Marlaur and C. C. Sapp.

Crow—U. E. Babb, E. S. Waterbury and C. V. Martin.

Logan—James Long, William Niemeyer and Z. P. DeForest.

Harmony—O. O. England, I. N. Rich and N. J. Dunham.

Pleasant—A. W. Dean, O. E. Gaffin and John Sullivan.

Crow Lake—D. F. Moulton, R. Y. Hazard and S. H. Melcher.

Chery—P. B. Davis, H. J. Wallace and G. W. Bolton.

Media—M. D. Crow, Conway Thompson and B. G. Cummings.

Anina—S. S. Moore, O. F. Kellogg and A. D. Cady.

Dale—O. W. Richardson, A. Mercer and Frank Eastman.

Wessington Springs—C. W. McDonald, Wm. Hawthorne and W. I. Bateman.

Viola—J. M. Primmer, L. G. Wilson and Wm. Dixon.

Alpena—L. N. Loomis, F. W. Whitney and D. F. Royer.

Franklin—Joseph Doctor, W. P. Pierce and D. M. Black.

Blaine—B. Wheeler—(probably J. M. Wheeler), M. W. Young and Thos. Bigger.

On August 1st the committee called the first delegate republican convention to meet at the county building in Wessington Springs on the 6th day of Sept., 1884, at 1 P. M. to transact the following business: To elect two delegates to attend the congressional convention to be held at Pierre on Sept. 17, 1884; to select six delegates to attend the legislative convention at Mitchell, Oct. 8th; to nominate county officers and elect a county central committee. The townships were given representation as follows:

Blaine three; Viola three; Crow Lake three; Anina two; Logan three;

Franklin three; Wessington Springs two; Media two; Dale two; Pleasant three; Crow three; Alpena three; Harmony two; Chery two; Marlar two; Making a total of thirty-eight.

The committee also appointed a committee for each commissioner district of the county as follows:

No. 1—L. N. Loomis, Albert Gunderson and J. M. Wheeler.

No. 2—J. E. McNamara, A. J. Lowder and B. F. Goff.

No. 3—H. A. Pierce, E. S. Waterbury and Joseph O'Brien.

In 1884, Jerauld county had no regularly elected member of the district legislative committee, but when the committee met at Mitchell on July 31st, O. G. Woodruff of Alpena, attended the meeting and was permitted to represent the county.

On the 6th day of Sept.; 1884, the first delegate convention of the Republican party of Jerauld county met according to the call of the committee, and organized by electing Thos. H. Null, of Waterbury as both temporary and permanent chairman, F. B. Phillips, of Alpena and E. J. Mentzer, of Crow Lake, were elected to attend the congressional convention, and H. Herring, O. W. Richardson, D. F. Royer, G. McDonald and Joseph O'Brien were sent to the convention at Mitchell. The county ticket nominated was as follows:

Register of Deeds—L. N. Loomis.

Probate Judge—T. H. Null.

Clerk of Courts—Albert Gunderson.

County Attorney—N. J. Dunham.

Supt. of Schools—J. T. Johnston.

County Treasurer—H. A. Pierce.

Assessor—R. S. Vessey.

Coroner—D. F. Royer.

Sheriff—J. M. Spears.

Surveyor—J. M. Corbin.

Justices—O. E. Gaffin, W. L. Davis, H. P. Jones and C. E. Hackett.

Constables—Jacob Rosenthal, W. E. Dement, Mark Williams and J. C. Johnson.

The result of the convention was very unsatisfactory to a large number of people of the county. The local paper, The Herald, refused to publish the proceedings of the convention and for several weeks did not even print the ticket. It was evident from the date of the convention that a bitter fight was pending. No record was preserved of the personnel of the convention, and I have been compelled to rely upon my own memory and that of others who were delegates, or attendants, on that memorable occasion. The following is the list of delegates as nearly correct as I have been able to ascertain.

Alpena—F. B. Philips, O. G. Woodruff and D. F. Royer.

Dale—John Teasdale and O. W. Richardson.

Chery—H. A. Miller and ———.

Harmony—J. R. Eddy and Daniel Mitchell.

Marlar—J. M. Corbin and T. J. Hunt.

Crow—T. H. Null, H. Herring and C. V. Martin.

Pleasant—S. Marlenee, James Foster and Moses Shaw.

Media—Theo. Dean and M. D. Crow.

Wessington Springs—J. A. McDonald and E. L. Smith.

Franklin—W. P. Pierce, O. O. Lindebak and L. J. Grisinger.

Blaine—J. M. Wheeler, Geo. Rychman and Thos. Bigger.

Viola—J. A. Tyner, M. W. Nesmith and T. K. Ford.

Anina—N. E. Williams and C. E. Little.

Crow Lake—Joseph O'Brien, Thos. Henning and E. J. Mentzer.

Logan—J. A. Riegall, H. A. Robinson and H. A. Frick.

Although that first delegate convention was charged with all sorts of political chicanery, it was probably as fair as any that have followed. Each candidate did his best to win and to accomplish that result he and his friends resorted to every available known political maneuver. Before the day of the convention the Republican party in the county had become divided into two factions, so bitterly opposed that reconsiliation was impossible. The defeated candidates went out of the meeting firmly determined not to be bound by the result.

Although a candidate for clerk of courts had been nominated, the nomination was in no way effective, for the supreme court decided, a few days later, that that officer was appointed by the judges in the different districts and not elective.

The Democrats of the county met at the Wessington Springs on Sept. 13th to organize that party. John N. Dynes, of Dale township, was chairman of the meeting and B. R. Shimp, of Pleasant, secretary. A county committee was elected consisting of one member from each township, as follows:

Alpena—Geo. D. Canon.

Dale—John N. Dynes.

Chery—Ben Drake.

Harmony—Jeff. Sickler.

Marlar— ———

Crow—U. E. Babb.

Pleasant—B. R. Shimp.

Media—John Kugler.

Wessington Springs—R. M. Magee.

Franklin—I. P. Ray.

Blaine— —————

Viola— —————

Anina— —————

Crow Lake—Mr. Hoffman.

Logan— —————

Mr. G. D. Canon was elected chairman of the committee. The following resolution, introduced by Mr. Magee, was unanimously adopted.

"Resolved, that the Democratic party of Jerauld county, Dak., as organized this 13th day of Sept., 1884, is in favor of a just and fair representation of all the legal voters of the county in the selection of county officers, and declares itself opposed to all rings and caprices gotten up by any party, or set of men, for the purpose of benefiting a few favored individuals."

All the commissioner district conventions were held on the 27th of Sept. In the first district Mr. Fisher was nominated, without opposition, to succeed himself. In the second district Mr. L. G. Wilson, of Viola, was nominated at Wessington Springs, to succeed Mr. Smart. In the third district the convention was held at Waterbury and was the most stubbornly contested of any convention ever held in the county. The convention met at 2 P. M. and continued, with an intermission of one hour for supper, until eleven o'clock that night. The candidates were S. H. Melcher and Joseph O'Brien of Crow Lake and J. E. Sullivan, of Pleasant. On the last ballot O'Brien's strength went to Sullivan and he was nominated with one majority. Sixty-eight ballots were taken.

On the 3rd of Oct., Chairman Canon published the first call for a democratic nominating convention, to meet at Wessington Springs on October 11th.

Meanwhile the trouble in the Republican ranks was taking the form of organized opposition.

A mass convention of those opposed to the Republican ticket nominated on the 6th of Sept. was called to meet Oct. 25th, to nominate a people's ticket for county officers. This call was issued Oct. 10, and was signed as follows:

O. O. England, I. N. Rich, W. A. Miller, O. J. Marshall, William Bremmer, J. O. Grey, E. A. Sowerwine, Gordon McDonald, N. E. Williams and M. W. Nesmith.

The Democrats met in mass convention pursuant to the call issued by the committee chairman. The Waterbury brass band was engaged for the occasion. A motion was made to wait until the meeting of the dissatisfied republicans and then "fuse" with them, but it was voted down and the convention proceeded to put in nomination a full county ticket. The candidates named were:

Register of Deeds—G. D. Canon.

Sheriff—G. F. Hodges.

Clerk District Court—R. M. Magee.

Probate Judge—H. M. Rice.

Treasurer—C. E. Thayer.

Coroner—Dr. J. M. Hull.

Surveyor—H. J. Wallace.

Supt. of Schools—B. R. Shimp.

Justices—U. E. Babb, O. E. Gaffin, M. C. Ayers and J. O. Gray.

Constables—Henry Krumwied, Mark Williams, John Kugler and L. W. Castleman.

On October 24th, Mr. T. L. Blank announced in the Wessington Springs Herald that he was an independent candidate for election to the position he then held, that of register of deeds.

The next day, Oct. 25th, the peoples convention met at the county building in Wessington Springs. The room was not large enough to hold the enthusiastic crowd. O. O. England called the meeting to order and Thos. Whiffin was made chairman. O. J. Marshall, C. E. Thayer and J. A. Tyner were appointed a committee on resolutions. The voting was by ballot on the positions of register of deeds and county treasurer. The balance of the ticket was nominated by acclamation. On the position of register of deeds seventy-four votes were cast, of which T. L. Blank received forty-six, H. C. Stephens fifteen and L. N. Loomis thirteen. For treasurer W. J. Williams received sixty-nine votes and C. E. Thayer nine. When completed the peoples ticket was as follows:

Register of Deeds—T. L. Blank.

Supt. of Schools—R. Y. Hazard.

Sheriff—J. M. Spears.

Probate Judge—H. M. Rice.

Treasurer—W. J. Williams.

Assessor—R. S. Vessey.

Coroner—M. W. Nesmith.

Surveyor—J. M. Corbin.

Justices—Hiram Freeman, E. A. Herman, M. C. Ayers and M. W. Young.

Constables—Fred Strasser, H. P. Jones, J. C. Johnson and L. W. Castleman.

The committee on resolutions made the following report which was adopted:

WHEREAS: The nominations for the public officers of this, our home, Jerauld county, have to a certain extent been made by a ring of political tricksters, instead of by the people of the county, be it

Resolved, The people of Jerauld county, in mass convention, do hereby protest against all such dishonesty, trading or trickery, which tends to defeat the will of the people.

Resolved, That we hereby invite all those interested in the cause of honest politics, irrespective of party, to join us in the coming election, in obtaining a fair square expression of the true will of the voters of Jerauld county.

Resolved, That we do not advocate the creation of factions, or side issues, but demand that good will and peace may be united in securing the express will of the people.

On October 31st Mr. Hazard announced himself an independent candidate for the position of Co. Supt. of Schools.

The candidates were now all in the field and the issue fully understood by everybody in the county, which was—who shall have the offices. To this was added a quadrangular fight for the county seat.

Crow Lake, though unplatted as a town, and Waterbury, had both entered the race as avowed candidates, Lyndale had been platted in August, and was making a hard struggle.

On October 31st the Wessington Springs Herald printed a bond in the sum of \$2000 for the fulfillment of the "combined proposition" that had been accepted by the county commissioners on Jan. 18, 1884. To this bond was attached the names of C. S. Burr, D. A. Scott, C. E. Bourne, P. R. Barrett, A. B. Smart and Mrs. R. J. Smart. The election occurred on Nov. 4th. The bond was never heard of again.

The contest continued until the last vote was cast on election day. The result was as follows:

Register of Deeds—L. N. Loomis.

Supt. of Schools—J. T. Johnson.

Sheriff—J. M. Spears.

Probate Judge—H. M. Rice.

Treasurer—W. J. Williams.

Assessor—R. S. Vessey.

Coroner—D. F. Royer.

Surveyor—J. M. Corbin.

County Commissioners:

1st District—H. D. Fisher.

2nd District—L. G. Wilson.

3rd District—J. E. Sullivan.

County Seat—Wessington Springs, 395; Lyndale, 285; Crow Lake, 71; and Waterbury, 64.

For Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Hazard was defeated by one vote. On Nov. 14th, after the returns of the election had been canvassed

and the result declared, the chairman of the board of commissioners, on motion of Mr. Melcher, was instructed to proceed to secure title to the county of the property specified in the "combined proposition." Nothing further was ever done about it.

For the position of county attorney the canvassing board refused to count the vote, on the ground that the county was not entitled to such an officer. The matter was made the subject of a good deal of bitter discussion for several months and finally dropped.

Chapter 15.

After the excitement engendered by the political campaign of 1884 had subsided, affairs went on toward the development of the county along many lines.

In the latter part of December, 1884, Judge A. J. Edgerton of the 2nd judicial district, of which Jerauld was a part, made an order attaching that county to Aurora for judicial purposes.

The season of 1884, like the preceding one, was propitious. There was no frost in the county until October 6th, and all crops were secured in excellent condition.

A few losses had been occasioned by fires, which will be mentioned in a chapter devoted to that subject exclusively.

The result of the vote on the location of the county seat, of course put an end to all hope of making a town at Lyndale. Within a few weeks after the vote was taken Mr. McNamara took the Jerauld County News back to Wessington Springs and opened a printing office in a building that had been erected for him about where the fire house now stands. A few months later the building in which the paper had been printed at Lyndale was sold to E. L. Smith, who moved it, also, to Wessington Springs and placed it on Blowers addition to that town.

C. E. Thayer was appointed deputy treasurer on the 29th day of November, 1884, by W. J. Williams. Mr. Thayer qualified three days later.

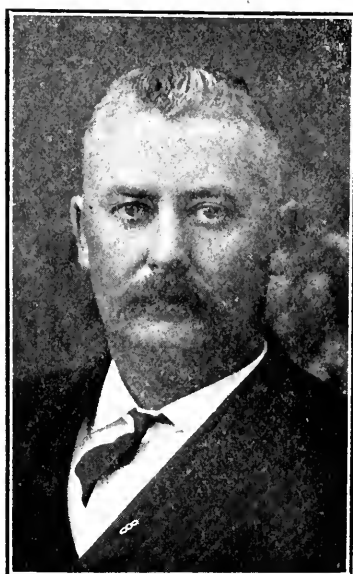
In 1885 the winter set in on the 6th day of January, and continued very cold until about March 15th, when it "broke," and the settlers began their spring work.

During the month of February, 1885, E. H. Ford had a notion store in his building on the south side of Main St. in Wessington Springs.

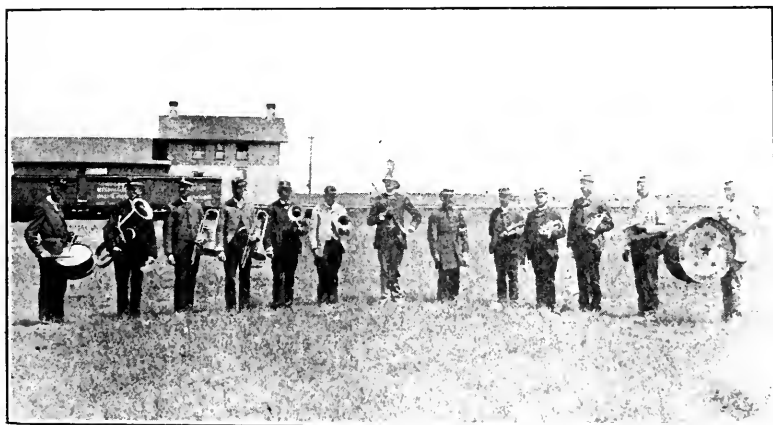
In March, 1885, Vessey Bros., Ransom & Co. built a machinery ware-



Mrs. E. V. Miles.



C. E. Hackett.



Wessington Springs Band at Alpena, July 4th, 1885.

house on the northwest corner of Main and 2nd Streets. It stood until Vessey Bros. built the new store in 1903.

During the same month (March) L. N. Loomis began hauling lumber for a residence on College Ave. in Smart's Addition to Wessington Springs, and R. S. Vessey began excavating for his house in the county seat.

About the 1st of April, John Chapman moved his blacksmith tools from his farm on section 17—107—64, into a new shop just completed by L. H. Tarble.

About the same time the teacher and pupils in District No. 1 of Wessington Springs township, set out twenty-eight trees furnished them by Mr. Tofflemier, and Mr. L. G. Wilson of Viola, offered a tree to each pupil in the township if they would plant it where they expected to attend school.

In the second week in June a culvert was put in the ravine on Main St. between 3rd and 4th Streets. A small bridge had already been put across the ravine in the block east, but while these crossings were good enough for the summer, the ice in winter for several years closed the passage and formed a slippery mound that rendered the road almost impassable during the cold weather.

On June 18th, 1885, Vessey Bros., Ransom & Co. began digging the cellar for a new store building on the southwest corner of Main and 2nd streets. A few days later Mr. Marlence began work on the building, which the firm occupied Sept. 1, 1885.

August 20th of that year two young men came to Wessington Springs from New Lisbon, Wis., to look over the situation with a view to locating. They were so well pleased with the prospect that they immediately purchased the stock of the N. D. Wilder store and a week later the advertisement of Roth Bros. appeared in the local papers.

The county commissioners on July 24th let to W. S. Scofield the contract for grading the road located by the county over the hills west of town, going on the north side of the draw west of the big spring. The contract price for the work was \$198.00 and Mr. Scofield agreed to put in the culvert provided for in the arrangement with Mr. McDonald, for \$25.00. The work was completed in the forepart of September.

On Sept. 13th the road overseer of Wessington Springs township began the first work on the Main street of the village.

During the summer a census of the county was taken, which gave the county a population of 2,103 and Wessington Springs township 345.

A young man named James Waters came up from Sioux City in the forepart of October, 1885, and opened a pool hall in the Housel & Arnold building, which had been recently vacated by Vessey Bros., Ran-

som & Co. This building stood on the south side of Main St. where Shull's drug store now stands.

In November, 1885, Thomas Drake put up the building on the north side of Main St. in Wessington Springs, now occupied by Ausman and Wallace.

About the same time Mrs. Spears moved the office part of what she afterwards named the Willard Hotel, from the lot south of Roth's store, where it was built, to the ground upon which it now stands.

In December of that year, J. H. Woodburn and F. M. Brown formed a partnership to do blacksmithing and woodwork in a shop west of 2nd street and north of Main street in Wessington Springs.

At Crow Lake Mr. Lodge dissolved his partnership relation with Mr. Derrick and formed business relations with Chas. Ferguson. This continued until June 3rd, 1885, when the firm sold out to J. T. Glasham, who conducted the store for many years. About the same time the people of Crow Lake and vicinity petitioned the county commissioners to put a public highway around the lake. The petition was dismissed.

In May of that year Mrs. Allyn and Mr. Lodge employed T. L. Blank to survey and plat the townsite of Crow Lake, on some land owned by them at the southwest corner of the lake.

At Lyndale H. A. Robinson, having finished his building, put in a stock of groceries in February, 1885, and kept up the business until later in the year he sold to W. A. Pound.

At Alpena a number of business changes were made in the year 1885.

Ray Barber engaged in livery business, using the barn that stood back of the hotel.

A lady named Harris purchased the building formerly occupied by R. Davenport as a restaurant, and continued the business.

J. T. Johnston, County Supt., built the third grain warehouse and continued to do grain business in it until he sold to McMichael in 1887. This warehouse was changed to an elevator in 1901.

On the 10th day of December occurred one of the most important events in the social and business life of Alpena. This was the organization of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The charter members of the lodge were seven in number: Daniel F. Royer, Wilmot W. Hillis, Charles Davis, Leopold Dietz, John C. Zimmerman, W. W. Huxtable and Andrew Westdahl. There were thirteen initials at the first meeting of the lodge, viz.: W. T. Hay, Ray Barber, L. J. Pratt, F. W. Whitney, C. R. Manwarning, J. R. Milliken, E. J. Makemson, W. A. Linn, L. H. McCarger, R. Davenport, L. J. McWilliams, Lewis Fenstemaker, and Frank Adams. Of the men present at that meeting only Ray Barber

and W. W. Hillis remain in the town. The lodge now has a membership of 72, while the Rebekah lodge has nearly 100 members.

About the first of January, 1885, L. N. Loomis, being compelled to spend most of his time in the registers office at Wessington Springs, W. L. Davis again took charge of the Jerauld County Journal, and continued to manage the paper until Mr. Loomis rented the Journal office, paper and all, to L. H. McCarger, July 25th, 1885.

The year 1884 had seen the town of Sulphur Springs gradually grow smaller by the removal of one building after another until with the close of the year but one remained,—the hotel was occupied by the family of R. A. Wheeler. The night of January 1st, 1885, was a pleasant one and mild for that time of the year. Sometime in the night a fire broke out in the hotel and the next morning but a heap of smouldering embers marked the spot where the last Sulphur Springs land mark had disappeared.

The churches of the county had more trouble during the year 1885 than other institutions.

At Alpena, L. C. Burch, the conference appointee for reasons best known to himself and the church left his charge in March and was succeeded by Rev. W. H. Hoadley, who remained until the close of the conference year. On Oct. -3th, Rev. J. Trewartha was placed at Alpena and Wessington Springs by the conference and proved satisfactory to the people and the church. At Wessington Springs the year was welcomed at a watch meeting in the M. E. Church. At this meeting as the clock indicated the hour of midnight, Mr. C. W. McDonald arose and in a ten minutes talk delivered an address that has seldom, if ever, been equaled in the county.

W. D. Luther, appointed by the conference in October, 1884, to succeed Mr. Campbell, was asked before spring to resign the charge and seek some other place. Luther was succeeded by L. F. Daniels, who was confirmed as pastor July 16th, 1885, put shortly after resigned. He was followed by Mr. W. H. Jordan, who supplied the place until Mr. Trewartha came at the beginning of the conference year in October.

The church at Waterbury had lost their church building, but the public school house afforded them ample accommodation. They were fortunate, however, in receiving Rev. Paganhart as the appointee from the conference.

At the residence of C. G. Smith on the NE of 35 in Harmony, the Friends began holding religious services and Sunday School February 1st, 1885.

A few days later Mrs. C. G. Smith began teaching a private school at

her home, which was attended by her daughter Ora and by Walter and Marion Grieve.

About the same time Mrs. S. B. Knowlton began a school at the home of her father, Lewis Nordyke on the SW of 17 in Harmony township, which was attended by her brother Charley Nordyke, her daughters, Ger-tie and Ollie Knowlton, and Anna Titus.

April 11th, 1885, the Friends began holding meetings in the Grieve school house in Harmony township.

Mrs. S. F. Huntley, of Harmony township, was recorded in the Friend's Church as a minister of that denomination, July 10th, 1885.

In 1885, from the house of Mr. Huntley, on the SE of Sec. 33—108—66, eighty-one residences could be counted.

The first township teachers institutes in the county were held in Chery and Pleasant townships in February, 1885. Those in Chery were called by C. W. Hill, director, and those in Pleasant by G. W. Trollope, town-ship school clerk.

The new board of county commissioners, J. E. Sullivan, L. G. Wilson and H. D. Fisher took the oath of office January 5th, 1885, and Mr. Fisher was made chairman.

January 6th, 1885, the treasurer's bond was fixed at \$20,000. The next day the Jerauld County News was made official paper of the county.

January 15th the county clerk's (register of deeds) salary was in-creased to \$300 per year and County Supt. to \$250. On the same day R. S. Vessey and Joseph O'Brien were reappointed members of the county brand committee. The board made Dr. E. L. Turner and R. M. Magee members of the board of insanity, the probate judge, H. M. Rice, being the other member by virtue of his office.

On April 28th, 1885, the townsite company and Hiram Blowers offered the county four blocks of lots if the commissioners would locate the court house on the hill, where it now stands. The offer was accepted. There is nothing to indicate that this was in any manner a substitute for the "combined proposition" about which so much had been said during the year 1884.

But little, aside from the routine work of the county, was done by the commissioners in the year of 1885. On July 10th the board requested Judge Edgerton to make Jerauld county a judicial subdivision. The re-quest was granted on the 24th of the same month and the order detaching Jerauld from Aurora county was entered in the court records by clerk McDonald, Aug. 4th, 1885.

August 26th the board requested Mr. Samuel Marlenee to prepare plans for a court house and vault, and instructed the clerk to advertise

for bids for building the same, the bids to be opened the first Monday in September.

On the 7th of Sept. the tax levy was made as follows: County general fund, 6 mills; bridge fund, 2 mills; road fund, 2 mills; and county school fund, 2 mills. The territorial levy for that year was three and seven tenths mills.

The bids for building the court house being opened on the day appointed, the contract was let to Sam Marlenee. The plan called for a building 32x40 ft., two stories high. The vault to be of double walls, 8x6 ft., inside measure. The structure was to cost not to exceed \$2,000, of which the county agreed to pay \$1,750 and certain persons in Wessington Springs \$250. The contract required the completion of the structure by the 15th of Nov., 1885. On Sept. 2nd Wm. Brinner began building the foundation for the court house and on the evening of Nov. 12th a dedicatory ball in the court room celebrated the finishing of the work.

The dance at the new court room on the 12th of Nov., 1885, was a notable occasion. People were in attendance from all parts of the county. The committees were as follows:

Arrangements—L. N. Loomis, Theo. Roth, of Wessington Springs, L. H. McCarger, of Alpena, Sam Marlenee of Waterbury, J. E. Sullivan, of Lyndale.

Invitation—R. J. Hughs, Crow Lake; Chas. R. Manwareing, Alpena; Geo. Corkings, Woonsocket Spring; and Chas. Hopkins of Waterbury.

Reception—C. E. Thayer, J. T. Johnston and Wm. Mundie.

Floor Managers—G. N. Price, C. E. Hackett, W. J. Williams and Allan Ransom.

The commissioners about the 10th of December ordered a steel cell that, when put together in the county jail, should cost not to exceed \$1,025. The building formerly used as the office of the register of deeds, was moved on to the hill near the court house and in it the steel cell was placed.

At the close of the year 1885 the county treasurer and register of deeds, issued a statement of warrants issued and taxes collected since the organization of the county. The statement was as follows:

1884, warrants issued	\$6,539.17
1885, warrants issued	\$6,819.96
Total	\$13,359.13
1884 and 1885, taxes collected	\$4,271.27
1884 and 1885, taxes due	\$5,478.73
Total	\$10,200.00
Warrants in excess of resources	\$3,159.13.

On the 6th day of November, 1885, Mr. James A. McDonald drove his steam threshing machine engine up the grade over the Wessington Hills about 11:30 A. M., and when he reached the top of the hill beyond the grade he stopped and opened wide the whistle. It was the first note of its kind ever heard west of the foot hills in Jerauld county.

The story of Jerauld county business houses will not be complete without at least mention of Ed Leon, oldest traveling salesman for Shenberg Co., Martin Jaquemai, salesman for Hornick, Hess & Moore, wholesale druggists since 1887, and Geo. Rew, for Knapp & Spencer, a wholesale hardware firm, all of Sioux City. During near to a quarter of a century they have travelled over the prairies of Jerauld county, in heat and in cold; in sunshine, and in storm; by livery team, by stage coach and by railroad train; always a good word for the county, a pleasant smile and a cheering word for their customers, these men of the grip have been through all that time a force for the development and welfare of the territory over which their work carried them. With the exception of the Austin failure at Waterbury, in 1887, when Leon's house lost between three and four hundred dollars, these men have not sent in a bad order, nor their firms lost a penny in the county.

Late in the autumn of 1884, a move was set on foot at Woonsocket, as an incident of the Sanborn county county-seat fight to get an act passed by the legislature that should meet at Bismarck in January, 1885, dividing Jerauld county, and attaching its three eastern townships to Sanborn, and to compensate Jerauld county for its loss of territory, the scheme comprehended the annexation of Buffalo county to Jerauld. The move aroused quick and furious antagonism in both Jerauld and Buffalo counties. A meeting was held at Alpena in January, attended by men from all parts of Jerauld county, and Mr. O. G. Woodruff, of Alpena, was sent to Bismarck to lobby against the bill. The move failed and the county boundaries were not disturbed.

A meeting for the purpose of organizing a farmers' alliance was called by a notice published in the county papers Feby. 13th, 1885. The call was signed by Mr. C. W. Hill, of Chery township. An organization was perfected, having an alliance in each township with a central county council. For several years this society was of immense assistance to the farmers of the county in selling produce and in obtaining supplies. At this time I have been unable to get any trace of the records of this organization.

The stock holders of the Jerauld County Fair Association met at Wessington Springs, January 6th, 1885, and elected, B. G. Cummings, president; H. E. Merwin, vice-president; Allan Ransom, secretary, and S. H. Melcher, treasurer. The board of directors was composed of Richard

Vanderveen, J. M. Corbin, O. G. Woodruff, H. Blowers, W. R. Day, M. W. Nesmith, M. W. Young, H. A. Miller, E. S. Waterbury, W. J. Williams and W. T. Hay. The executive committee was composed of C. W. Hill, J. F. Ford, L. N. Loomis, W. I. Bateman and H. W. Lowder.

The legislature that adjourned in the fore part of March, 1885, by an apportionment act made the eighth council and representative district to consist of Jerauld, Sanborn and Beadle counties.

Before the 1885 session of the territorial legislature had adjourned it was apparent that another effort was to be made to divide the territory and induce congress to admit South Dakota into the union. Provision was made for a constitutional convention and \$20,000 appropriated out of the territorial treasury to defray the expenses there of.

In Jerauld county the statehood movement of 1885 was taken seriously by the politicians of both parties. The county was accorded two delegates in the constitutional convention which was called to meet at Sioux Falls in September. A county convention was called for June 20th and S. F. Huntley, of Harmony township and Albert Gunderson of Wessington Springs nominated to represent Jerauld county. Two days later C. W. Hill announced himself an independent candidate for the position of delegate to the constitutional convention. In his announcement Mr. Hill declared for the "initiative" in legislation, in the same form in which it was adopted into the state constitution in 1897. He also advocated the pure food law as it passed congress twenty-one years later. The election of delegates occurred June 30th, Mr. Huntley received 237, Mr. Gunderson 181 and Mr. Hill 54 votes.

At no time in the history of the county has temperance work been carried on more energetically than during the few months prior to the special election of November, 1885. The experience of 1883 led the prohibitionists to determined and systematic work all over the proposed state. From the beginning they had the campaign in Jerauld county well in hand and practically controlled the election. The result was not as decisive as was anticipated because of the small vote polled.

This time both prohibition and minority representation were submitted to the people to be voted on with the constitution. By the middle of October a full set of state legislative and judicial candidates had been nominated. For the purpose of this election Jerauld and Aurora counties were placed together as a senatorial district, while Jerauld stood alone as a representative district.

A senatorial convention held at Plankinton, October 26th, nominated E. V. Milles, of Jerauld Co. as the Republican candidate for senator. For representative, S. F. Huntley, of Harmony township, was nominated at

a convention held in Wessington Springs, Oct. 17th. At the same time O. G. Woodruff, of Alpena was nominated for county judge.

The Democratic party of the proposed state refused to have anything to do with the election for state and county officers under the statehood movement. Yet Mr. J. W. Harden of Franklin township became a democratic candidate for the legislature and M. C. Ayers announced himself a candidate for county judge.

Anticipating that prohibition would be submitted to the people of the proposed state the temperance workers became active early in the season. On July 4th, 1885, the band of hope, a childrens temperance organization, had a membership of fifty-one in the county. The work of extending this society was carried on by Mrs. Nettie C. Hall, president of the county W. C. T. U. July 17th, forty-five members of the band of hope met at the school section east of Wessington Springs and were taken to Woonsocket for a pleasant day with the organization there. Meetings of the county W. C. T. U. were held at different parts of the county. One meeting was held at Waterbury, another at Alpena and one at Wessington Springs. July 26th a band of hope was organized at Dale center school house, another at school house No. 4 in Chery, on Aug. 2nd.

A Sunday School was organized at the Nelson school house in Anina township, July 5th, with A. Hodgson Supt., E. Moon, Ass't. Supt., and Ida Kellogg Sec. and Treas. In the same township a W. C. T. U. Society was formed in the latter part of October with Mrs. A. D. Cady president.

In Viola township a W. C. T. U. was organized in October. Mrs. Susan Smith, president.

A Band of Hope was organized in Wessington Springs, July 5th, under the superintendency of the Pioneer W. C. T. U. Mr. John Kugler was engaged to make twenty wooden guns and thirty wands for the children and to drill them in certain movements. The members of the band were supplied with caps and the society had two flags that they carried on all gala occasions.

During the County Fair exhibition in September the members of the W. R. C. and the Pioneer W. C. T. U. maintained a "temperance home" on the fair grounds.

On the 20th of September the W. C. T. U. celebrated the centennial of temperance work in America.

At Alpena a local W. C. T. U. was organized July 22, Mrs. Daniel Kint, president; Mrs. R. Davenport, vice president; Mrs. Wm. Arne, secretary; and Mrs. C. D. Worral, treasurer. August 16th was a notable day because of the large crowd that gathered to witness the dedication of the M. E. Church building.

In Harmony township a W. C. T. U. was formed early in April.

On the Sabbath evening preceding election day a temperance concert was held at the M. E. Church, which was announced to be "free and no collection."

Election day came and Pioneer W. C. T. U. established a booth near the polls where hot coffee and lunch were served free to all who would eat.

In the county the vote polled was light. The constitution was elected by 563 to 41. Prohibition carried by 326 to 302, but was defeated in the following townships:

Alpena—38 to 24.

Franklin—42 to 28.

Blaine—57 to 13.

Dale—11 to 9.

Viola—20 to 15.

Logan—24 to 6.

Marlar—21 to 11.

Prohibition carried the proposed state by 15,552 to 15,218.

Minority representation was defeated in the county by 401 to 185, but carried in the following townships:

Blaine—39 to 29.

Viola—16 to 15.

Chery—12 to 9.

Harmony—17 to 8.

For capital Pierre carried Jerauld county by a vote of 494 to 188. In the townships the vote for Pierre and Huron stood as follows:

	Pierre.	Huron.
Wessington Springs	50	12
Alpena	2	64
Franklin	36	31
Blaine	38	37
Dale	3	16
Viola	32	1
Anima	42	2
Media	31	1
Chery	15	9
Harmony	25	00
Pleasant	41	1
Crow Lake	33	1
Marlar	32	00
Crow	50	00
Logan	16	13

In the county the vote for A. C. Mellette, the republican nominee for governor was 517 to 7 for F. M. Ziebach, the democratic candidate.

Robert Dollard, of Scotland, republican candidate for attorney general, carried the county by 518 votes.

For Judges of the Supreme Court the vote in the county was as follows:

Dighton Corson, 518; A. G. Killam, 519; and John E. Bennett, 518.

That is all of the state officers who were elected when the state was admitted in 1889. C. H. Dillon, of Mitchell, was elected Judge of the Circuit Court, but was not a candidate in 1889.

The vote for legislative and county officers was as follows:

State Senator—E. V. Miles, Republican, 495; Daniel Webster, Democrat, (of Aurora) 73.

County Judge—O. G. Woodruff, 381; M. C. Ayers, 261.

Representatives—S. F. Huntley, 405; J. W. Harden, 232.

A natural phenomenon occurred in the late summer and early autumn of 1885. Up to that time every lake of a few acres in extent had been dotted all over with cone shaped dwellings of muskrats. In August of that year, though there was abundance of water in the lakes and ponds, the little animals began to emigrate. They left the lakes and for weeks were scattered over the dry land, evidently leaving the country. Before the cold weather arrived they were gone and for fifteen years these fur-bearing animals were absent from the county.

Chapter 16.

SOLOMON TRIAL.

Section two of Logan township was the scene of the most tragic event in the history of the county. This chapter will have only to do with that event and therefore will be confined to the NW quarter of the section. This quarter was the pre-emption claim of Joseph B. Reaser, who made proof for it on the 29th day of August, 1883. January 7th, 1886, he deeded it to Wm. S. Combs. It became a part of the Combs & Harris ranch, however, in 1883, and the ranch buildings were placed there. Near the southeast corner of the quarter, in a broad level valley rises a small hill—what is often termed a "sugar loaf." This hill is about 30 feet in height, and can be plainly seen from all the country surrounding the valey. For a long time in the years 1883 and 1884 it served as a land

mark for people passing back and forth through that portion of the county. A pole 20 or 25 feet long had been erected on the top of this knoll and from it floated a flag from which the rain and sun at length washed and faded the colors until finally it was only a white cloth, whipped and tattered in the wind.

The pole was set in a pit about five feet long, four feet wide and four or five feet deep, around which a dry stone wall had been built. It is reported that the hole was dug by Reaser in the hope of finding something of value in the hill. In the fall of 1883 this quarter was leased by Reaser to Combs & Harris, the lease containing the provision that the leasees should not dig into nor take anything from the hill. The general shape of the hill is round. At the southeast part of the base a hole was dug into the hillside, and into it a shanty, 22x14 feet with 7-foot ceiling, was built. The building contained but one room. To this room there were two doors, one at the south end, swinging out and leading out doors and the other at the north end leading into an underground cave that had been dug back into the hill. There was a half window on each side of the room and one at the south end above the ceiling.

The furniture in the room was arranged about as follows: A safe, or cupboard, stood against the east wall of the room near the southeast corner. A few feet north of the cupboard stood a leaf table. In the northeast corner, and also in the northwest corner, was a bed, made of mattresses and bedding laid upon bed springs, which rested upon the floor. Near the center of the room stood the cook stove, the pipe going up through the roof.

About 30 or 40 yards west of the house was the horse stable, also set into a hole dug in the side hill.

About 25 yards south of the shanty and stable was the corral for the horses when running out.

The road from Waterbury to Crow Lake passed from NW to SE going but a few rods south of the hill.

The ranch contained 800 acres. Combs & Harris, the partners who owned the ranch, came from St. Louis in the fall of 1882 and established themselves on this tract. These men were both frequently away from home and during much of three or four years they operated the place it was left in charge of the hired help.

Many wierd and dark things are hinted at by the old settlers to the things done at that isolated ranch. In the fall of 1885 Peter Rohbe and Ben L. Solomon were employed about the place. Both were men of strong physique and quick tempered. Hard stories are told concerning each of them. Rohbe was a native of Sweden, while Solomon was born and raised at Glenwood, Mills county, Iowa. Card playing, gambling

and quarreling seems to have been the chief amusement.

One evening a party, including Solomon and Rohbe, were returning from a trip to White Lake. In the darkness they became confused and lost their way. For some time they drove on without knowing in what direction they were going. Rohbe became terribly enraged and threatened them all with the direst punishment if they lost him out there on the prairie. They arrived at home safely, however, and nothing came of Rohbe's threats. The feeling between the two men was not at all kindly and on several occasions Solomon was heard to say that he "expected he would have to kill that Swede."

On the evening of the 16th of November, 1886, Z. P. DeForest and A. E. Hanebuth, who lived on claims near to the Combs & Harris ranch, chanced to meet at the ranch shanty for a neighborly visit. In the course of the evening Solomon told some simple story which in no way reflected upon any one present. Rohbe looked Solomon squarely in the eye and remarked, "that is a lie." Solomon's face flushed, but he controlled himself and the incident passed.

On the morning of the 18th of November, 1885, just about daybreak, Ben Solomon mounted a mule at the Combs & Harris ranch and started along the road toward Waterbury. He did not seem to be in any great hurry, nor greatly excited. He did not whip the mule, but rode leisurely as one on an ordinary ride for a social visit with a neighbor. His appearance was not ordinary. One side of his face was covered with blood which was running from one ear. The top of the ear had been cut off. There were other light cuts about his head and his garments were stained with blood spots in several places.

Back in the shanty which Ben Solomon had just left lying with his back to the floor and his face toward the ceiling, a bullet hole through his right arm, a bullet hole through his heart, and a bullet hole through his head, was the body of Peter Rohbe.

Solomon rode leisurely on until he reached the residence of Lyman Goodrich, on the SW of 35 in Crow township, where he met Frank Engles, who got another animal, and together they rode on toward Waterbury.

When they reached the town Solomon inquired for a constable or sheriff. Some directed him to H. P. Jones, the sheriff's deputy, and others mentioned Geo. N. Price, the county constable. In a few minutes Price appeared and Solomon surrendered himself for trial for justifiable homicide. Of course great excitement grew in the community and spread over the county. H. P. Jones, the deputy sheriff, and a number of others, went to the ranch and looked at the corpse. When Jones returned to town he saw Solomon on the street in front of the hotel. "You have killed

him," Jones remarked. "It is what I intended to do," remarked Ben, without any trace of emotion. That evening O. E. Gaffin, one of the county justices, acting as coroner, visited the shanty on the ranch and held an inquest. The verdict accused Solomon of the crime of murder and he was taken to Wessington Springs and lodged in the county jail.

The county officials who had to do with the trial were, Albert Gunderson, district attorney; Chas. W. McDonald, clerk of courts, and J. M. Spears, sheriff. As Mr. Gunderson, though he had been appointed district attorney by the county commissioners, had not then been admitted to the bar, the commissioners employed Attorneys Dillon & Preston, of Mitchell, to conduct the prosecution. The attorneys for the defense were the firm of Goodykoontz, Kellam & Porter, of Chamlerlain, and T. H. Null, then of Waterbury.

The preliminary examination was held before C. E. Hackett, County Justice of the Peace at Wessington Springs.

The legal battle was long and hard. At the term of court called for the 17th of March, 1886, the grand jury was discharged because of a technical error in the selection of names from which it was drawn. The presiding judge was Bartlett Tripp of Yankton, one of the ablest jurists in the territory. Court convened again in July and the case came up for trial. Solomon had been granted the right to give bail in the sum of \$10,000, but being unable to get the sureties had remained in custody.

The jury, composed mostly of young men, was finally impaneled and the trial began. It was in the defense of this case that Tom Null first gave evidence of that splendid ability that has since made him one of the foremost lawyers of the state. The jury reported a disagreement, seven being for conviction and five for acquittal. Ben was remanded to jail. The defense then set about securing a change of venue. One of the local papers, the True Republican, then edited by J. E. McNamara, published a full account of the trial and the material part of the evidence. This was done at the instance of the defense. Then affidavits on both sides were taken from a large number of people. D. H. Solomon, a prominent lawyer of Glenwood, Iowa, father of the prisoner, came to Jerauld county immediately after the killing of Rohbe and directed the long and skillful defense. A change in the place of trial was granted and the case sent to Sanborn county. The trial was held in July, 1887, and Solomon was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to the penitentiary for two years.

The story of the crime, if crime it was, has, of course never been told by any one but Ben Solomon. In the course of the legal proceedings he told it seven times, and was three times subjected to a severe cross-examination, yet in no particular was any change made in his account of

the tragedy from that which he gave to the coroner on the evening of the 18th of November, 1885.

This is the story as he told it to the coroner:

"My name is Benjamin Logan Solomon. I am 27 years old. I reside on the NW quarter of section two 106—67 and have resided there since the 7th day of April, 1883. I am acquainted with Peter J. Rohbe. I first met him about two years ago while he was working for Jacob Norin. I have been intimately acquainted with him since he hired to Mr. Harris, which was about last May or June. Since that time Mr. Rohbe and myself have been hired on the farm of Harris & Combs. The last time I saw P. J. Rohbe was on the morning of the 18th of November, 1885. It was in Harris & Comb's house, after daylight. I can not tell the time exactly, for we had no time piece. When I last saw him he was lying on the floor.

"I arose in the morning as usual, built a fire in the stove and went out and gave the mules some millet. When I left the house Rohbe was in bed. I was gone, I suppose, from 20 minutes to half an hour. When I came in Rohbe was cooking breakfast. Mr. Comb's pup followed me out of the house and went to the stable and followed me back. I entered the house, threw off my coat and hat to prepare for breakfast. I threw my coat and hat on my bed which was in the northwest corner of the room. Rohbe immediately began calling to the dog to get out and kicking him around the stove. I told him if he wanted the dog out to open the door and let him out. He then picked up the dog by the back of the neck and began beating him with a piece of 2x4. When he dropped the dog it was bleeding at the mouth and nose. I said, 'Combs will not like this.' He replied, 'I do not give a ——— what Combs likes.' As the dog lay upon the floor I thought he was dead. The animal was a full-blooded, red colored water spaniel. I remarked, 'You have killed him.' He shouted, 'I will kill you, too, you — — —.' He raised the piece of 2x4 and came at me. I ran in on him and wrenched the stick away, and we clinched. I shoved him back upon the table where he had been cutting meat for breakfast. About the time his hip struck the table he let go of me. His hand dropped to the table and he picked up the butcher knife, and began hitting me on the head with it. I broke away and backed into the southwest corner of the room; he followed me with the knife, madder and madder all the time. He was muttering something in a language I could not understand. I saw he was intending to kill me and I picked up the rifle that stood in that corner of the room. I tried to bring the gun to bear on him but he was too close. He struck me with the knife and cut off my ear. When I got the gun around it went off. He paid no attention to it. I jerked the shell out as quick as I could.

then dropped the gun and backed into the northwest corner of the room and he after me with the knife uplifted. Under the pillow of my bed was a revolver that Mr. Combs generally carried, but this time he had left it. I picked up the revolver. There was an isle between the two beds. When I reached for the revolver Rohbe jumped on to his bed, turned around and struck at me. I fired, but to all appearances he was not hit. He paid no attention to the shot but kept coming towards me. I fired again and backed on the west side of the stove and kept on firing. I backed around to the east side of the south door which was closed. I had no time to open the door. If I could have done so I would have got out of there quick. I was in a box fighting for my life with a maniac. I fired the last shot while I was in the corner by the door. He was so close to me that the flash of the shot burned his face. The bullet hit him near the eye and he fell. I dropped the revolver, went and picked up my coat and hat and going to the stable I took a mule and went to Waterbury and gave myself up to Mr. Price, the constable."

The body of Rohbe was buried on the school section, 16, in Crow township. An unsuccessful attempt was once made to "snatch" it, and it is supposed to rest where it was buried.

The building in which the fight occurred was purchased by Mr. Hanebuth and moved to his farm on the SW of 1—106—67.

The stove, around which this battle occurred, was moved to Black Hawk, Iowa, where it is used to warm a hen house.

What became of "Doc," the water spaniel is not known, but he recovered from his beating and it is thought that Combs took him away.

Combs moved to Iowa, and from there to Arkansas. What became of Harris is not known.

Solomon served his term and then left the state. It is reported that he had many troubles afterward and was finally killed.

Chapter 17.

In the 1st commissioner district the republicans had nominated Mr. O. A. Knudtson of Franklin township, to succeed Mr. Fisher as county commissioner. The democrats had nominated Mr. Richard Dalton, of Blaine township. Mr. Knudtson was elected.

As an auxiliary to the G. A. R. Post at Wessington Springs, a W. R. C. was organized June 20, 1885.

W. H. L. Wallace G. A. R. Post was organized at Alpena on Feb. 14th, 1885, with the following charter members

Wm. H. Arne, 9th N. Y. H. Artillery.
 I. Pearce, 4th Ill. Cavalry.
 F. D. Hubbard, 111th N. Y. Infantry.
 R. Davenport, 4th Iowa Cavalry.
 C. M. Yakee, 1st Colorado Cavalry.
 M. D. Blank, 2nd Iowa Cavalry.
 O. W. Richardson, 12th Illinois Cavalry.
 B. Gondit, Gunboat service.
 E. J. Cole, 21st N. Y. Cavalry.
 H. C. Newmeyer, 153rd Penn. Infantry.
 J. Hines, 117th Ohio Infantry.
 P. Grey, 34th Illinois Infantry.
 C. C. Hubbard, 111th N. Y. Infantry.
 F. C. Phillips, Mich. B. L. Artillery.

In after years the following members were added to the post:

Lewis Fenstemaker, 34th Illinois Infantry.
 Ruben Eastman, 34th Illinois Infantry.
 Cyrus E. Tinnery, 124th Illinois Infantry.
 Childs P. Canon, 2nd Nebr. Cavalry.
 Solon Palmer, Gunboat.
 H. M. Arne, 9th N. Y. H. Artillery.
 B. F. Remore, 81st N. Y. Infantry.
 Charles Davis, 50th Wis. Infantry.
 John Teasdale, 37th Wis. Infantry.
 Wm. H. McDowell, 17th Penn. Mounted Infantry.
 W. T. Hay, — Wis. Infantry.
 R. Butler, 6th Iowa Cavalry.
 Wm. Orr, 44th Illinois Infantry.
 S. C. Weatherwax, 20th Iowa Infantry.
 J. Rankin, 84th Illinois Infantry.
 M. G. Shull, 16th Wis. Infantry.
 Theodore Le Master, 3rd W. Va. Cavalry.
 Chas. Fetterly, 4th Mich. Cavalry.
 Wm. J. Grace, 38th Wis. Infantry.

May 20th the County Commissioners appointed F. A. Wheelihan Justice of the Peace in place of Wesley L. Davis, resigned.

June 10th, 1885, L. N. Loomis moved his family to Wessington Springs.

In August, 1885, A. Converse purchased a farm in Anina township

and for many years thereafter was one of the most prominent citizens of the county.

Until the summer of 1885 the only water used on the townsite of Wessington Springs was from the big spring. Then L. H. Tarble had a well bored on the R. M. Magee property (now owned by James Barr). The water from this well was so excellent that other wells were put down.

August 8th, 1885, all the G. A. R. posts of the county observed Grant Memorial Day.

Union Cemetery is on the west side of the south-west quarter of section 18 in Viola township. It was purchased and platted at the expense of the people of Viola and Anina townships. Several of the residents of these two townships met at the Ford school house in Viola, Feb. 5th, 1885. J. N. Smith was made chairman of the meeting and Jonas A. Tyner, secretary. The purpose was the organization of a cemetery association. A board of trustees was elected composed of J. N. Smith and J. A. Tyner of Viola, and S. S. Moore and Asa Hodgson of Anina. The land was obtained and in December of that year they employed T. L. Blank, of Wessington Springs, to survey and plat it. The plat consists of four blocks, each of which is divided into thirty-six lots, which are numbered like the sections in congressional townships. At a meeting of the board of trustees in December, 1885, twelve lots were set aside, at the suggestion of Mr. Tyner, for a "potters field." In twenty-four years no one has found a burial place in any of those twelve lots. Articles of incorporation were adopted January 4th, 1886. The first person interred in Union cemetery was Mrs. N. G. Rhodes, a sister of J. A. Ford, of Viola township.

Charity cemetery is located on the NE quarter of section 26, in Viola township. This was platted in 188—. Mrs. J. G. Kieser was the first person buried in that church yard. The next seven interments were of babies. When twenty-seven graves had been made in this plat only three were adults, and of the children buried here only one was over nine years old, and twenty-three were less than three years.

The school bonds voted in the various townships in 1884—85 were as follows:

Alpena, \$4,000; Dale, \$2,500; Logan, \$1,500; Anina, \$2,000; Viola, \$2,500; Franklin, \$1,600; Chery, \$3,000; Marlar, \$1,500; Wessington Springs, \$2,000; Harmony, \$1,200; Crow, \$1,500; and Pleasant, \$1,570.

The practice act, or Code of Civil Procedure, of Dakota Territory abolished all "fictions" of the law. Yet the first term of the District Court in Jerauld Co., was by virtue of an order of chief justice Bartlett Tripp, in which he created a fiction and used it. The order was made

Feb. 19, 1886, calling an "additional" term of the court to convene on the 16th day of March.

This order required the drawing of twenty grand jurors and twenty-four petit jurors, to be drawn by the clerk and sheriff from a list to be provided by the county commissioners. This term of court was ordered mainly for the purpose of trying B. L. Solomon, then lying in jail on a charge of murder.

The grand jurors drawn were as follows: H. Blowers, J. H. Farnham, B. F. Gough, E. C. La Rue, O. Johanson, Jas. J. Grace, Otis Walker, E. T. Harmen, Andrew Jacobsen, J. Zimmerman, A. Bywater, J. W. Wray, W. Steiner, R. Vanterveen, W. A. Rex, Henry Kneiriem, J. B. Jacobs, Calvin Hane, and M. Powell.

The following is a list of the petit jurors: O. E. Williams, W. S. Scofield, R. Hible, Joseph Steichen, Joseph Ponsford, Fred Hagenbrook, T. L. White, Geo. King, H. W. Louder, A. S. Beels, J. Wheeler, Geo. Titus, A. I. Churchill, R. J. Hughes, Frank Augustin, W. J. Houmes, Thomas Henning, J. B. Neal, C. C. Wright, D. M. Black, M. H. Martin, K. S. Starkey, D. Kint, and F. W. Whitney.

Both the grand and petit juries were drawn on the 24th of February.

Of the grand jurors drawn all appeared but J. H. Farnham and J. B. Jacobs. The court granted the request of J. W. Wray to be excused, and the prosecution in the Solomon case challenged H. Blowers. A special venire was then issued and Wm. Hawthorne, H. J. Wallace, J. N. Dynes and A. S. Beals were summoned by the sheriff to fill the grand jury. The defense in the Solomon case then challenged the grand jury panel, because of error in selecting the list of names from which the jury was drawn, by the clerk and sheriff. The challenge was sustained and the grand jury discharged.

The petit jury was retained and then court proceeded with the trial of some civil cases.

Before the trial of cases began Mr. J. F. Ford was admitted to practice as an attorney, on a certificate issued by the district court in Calhoun county, Iowa.

The first alien admitted to citizenship by a court of record was Peter Nening, in District Court March 17, 1886. His witnesses were Joseph Steichen and W. J. Williams.

The first verdict rendered in district court in Jerauld county was for the defendant in the case of Peter Wieland vs. O. E. Gaffin. Dunham and Drake attorneys for plaintiff, and T. H. Null for defendant. The jury that tried this first case was composed of the following men: A. I. Churchill, W. S. Scofield, C. C. Wright, Jos. Ponsford, Thos. Henning,

H. W. Louder, M. H. Martin, D. Kint, A. S. Beals, F. W. Whitney, R. Hible and Geo. King.

Another term of court was called for June 29th. On the 2nd day of the term the grand jury returned an indictment against B. L. Solomon to which he pleaded "not guilty" on the 1st of July. The grand jury that returned this indictment, the first in the county, was composed of the following jurymen: Theodore Dean, foreman, Geo. W. Bolton, James H. Waldron, Geo. Knieriem, Wm. Hill, J. W. Shultz, Peter Klink, Louis Jonker, Julius Hart, A. Gilbertson, G. S. Brady, G. S. Eddy, H. C. Stephens, H. B. Faust, J. C. Barr, A. B. Easter, J. R. Eddy and E. J. Mentzer.

The trial of the Solomon case began on the 7th day of July, before a jury which consisted of: Patrick Conlon, J. C. Johnston, S. W. Foster, M. Flint, E. E. Nesmith, J. R. Nelson, W. Murphy, J. H. Daniels, W. L. Holden, Richard Price, J. A. Holcomb and E. A. Heaton.

The jury disagreed on the 10th of July and were discharged. The case was then taken to Sanborn county, where the prisoner was convicted and sent to prison for two years.

Following the example of previous years no detailed statement of county finances, was shown by settlement with the treasurer.

On January 5th, 1886, the following record appears in the minutes of the board. "The balance of the afternoon was spent in settling with the county treasurer."

On January 12th, 1886, Mr. Fisher retired from the board and Mr. Knudtson took his place. The new board organized by electing J. E. Sullivan chairman.

The strife over the position of official county paper was spirited at the meeting of the county commissioners in March, 1886. The following offers from the different publishers tell how anxious they were in those days to get the prestige of official patronage.

"The Jerauld County News will publish the county work at one-half legal rates, should you designate it the official paper of the county.

Very Respectfully,

News Publishing Co."

"Communication of Co. clerks of 14th inst. rec'd. I will make formal bid of \$26.00 to print Co. Com's proceedings for year 1886.

Yours truly,

M. B. McNeil.

Waterbury, D. T.

"Sirs:—I hereby agree to publish the proceedings of your Hon. body free of charge for one year, in consideration of the Wessington Springs Herald being named as the official paper of Jerauld county.

Yours respectfully,

T. L. Blank,
Pub. Herald."

"The Jerauld County Journal, of Alpena, will pay the county \$2.00 to be furnished with the minutes of the commissioners meetings during the current year, also publish the delinquent tax list at five cents per description, publish all legal notices of the board free of charge and furnish stationary at 20 per cent below regular price.

L. H. McCarger."

"Received of L. H. McCarger two dollars for having the privilege of county board. The above to the credit of county fund.

W. J. Williams, County Treasurer,
Jerauld Co., D. T."

On March 5th, 1886, the county board accepted the steel cell which had been placed in the old county building ready for use, allowing \$975 therefor. On April 8th they settled for the court house and jail, exclusive of cell at \$2,410.91. Making a total with the cell of \$3,385.91.

Franklin township filed a petition on July 5th, 1886, asking for civil township organization. The petition was laid over to the next meeting. On Oct. 5th the petition was denied.

July 6th the board passed an order instructing the road overseers on the west side of the county to work the west county line from the northwest corner of section 6—108—67 south 15 miles to the northwest corner of the NW of 19—107—67, Buffalo county having agreed to work the balance south of that point.

In calling the election for 1886 the board renumbered the precincts, putting each township by itself according to its congressional boundaries; Alpena being No. 1, Franklin No. 6 and Blaine No. 11, numbering west across the county.

At the September session, 1886, the board established a road on sections 14 and 23 in Marlar township. At the October session a road was established at the foot of the hills in Media and Chery townships.

The county tax levy in 1886 was the same in amount as the two previous years, but instead of levying 2 mills road tax and 2 mills bridge tax, the board dropped those items and levied a 4 mills tax for a sinking fund.

Nothing further of special interest occurred in the proceedings of the board of commissioners during the year 1886.

Politics, as usual, was a matter of interest to all. The eighth council and representative district, composed of Beadle, Sanborn and Jerauld counties was entitled to two representatives and one member of the territorial council. Beadle county being designated by the apportionment act as the senior county, claimed the position of councilman, and nominated John Cain as the republican candidate. Sanborn county republicans brought forward Wilson Wise as their candidate while in this county D. F. Royer, of Alpena, was the republican nominee. Against these candidates the democrats nominated J. W. Harden, of Jerauld county for the council, and C. C. Frost, of Beadle county, and A. K. Colton of Sanborn county, for representatives.

In county politics the bitterness engendered in 1884 seemed to have intensified with the approach of another election. Three tickets were put in the field for most of the offices. For register of deeds the democrats and independents united and nominated H. C. Stephens, of Wessington Springs, against L. N. Loomis, who was a candidate for re-election.

The various candidates were as follows:

Register of Deeds—Republicans, L. N. Loomis; Dem. and Independent, H. C. Stephens.

Dist. Attorney—Republican, C. V. Martin; Democrat, Thomas Drake; and Ind., T. H. Null.

Treasurer—Rep., W. J. Williams, Dem., U. E. Babb; and Ind., C. L. Austin.

Sheriff—J. A. Tyner; Dem., Isaac Pearce; and Ind., J. M. Spears.

Probate Judge—Rep., H. M. Rice; Dem., John Chapman; and Ind., A. Converse.

Assessor—Rep., J. A. Riegall; Dem., Geo. Deindorfer; and Ind., J. O. Gray.

Coroner—Rep., E. L. Turner; Ind., M. W. Nesmith.

Surveyor—Rep., H. J. Wallace; and Dem., B. R. Shimp.

Supt. of Schools—Rep., I. S. Binford; and Dem. J. J. Stiner.

The result at the polls was an indication of what happened two years later. The republican convention was conducted after the manner of politics in those days and a good deal of "trading" and "bartering" was done. Whether justly or not, the work of the convention was charged, to D. F. Royer, candidate for the legislature. No one could say that the ticket nominated was not made up of good men, but the dissatisfied ones worked harder against Royer than against any other man on the ticket with the result that although he was elected in the district he was defeated in his home county by a vote of 475 for Frost to 377 for Royer.

The county ticket was somewhat mixed at the election. The following officers were elected:

Register of Deeds—L. N. Loomis.

District Attorney—T. H. Null.

Treasurer—W. J. Williams.

Sheriff—J. M. Spears.

Probate Judge—H. M. Rice.

Assessor—J. O. Gray.

Coroner—E. L. Turner.

Surveyor—H. J. Wallace.

Supt. of Schools—I. S. Binford.

Co. Commissioners—3rd Dist., Jefferson Sickler.

Justices of the Peace—C. E. Hackett, J. R. Francis, J. T. McGlashan and O. O. Lindebak.

Constables—W. W. Huxtable, J. O. Shryock, Robt. Flagg and John Eagan.

Chapter 18.

The first month of the year 1886 was one of intense cold. The average temperature was seven degrees below zero. The first frost of the preceding autumn had come on the morning of the first of September and been followed by cold weather during November, though December had been mild. February, 1886, was also a month of zero weather, but on the 10th of March it turned warm and spring weather came on rapidly.

Seeding was done early and the rains were frequent and copious. Crop prospects were never better than during the months of May and June. Ducks were nesting in the numerous lakes and ponds scattered over the county.

On the morning of the 4th of July the wind changed to a little west of south and by noon was blowing a gale. Through the afternoon and all night the wind continued, gradually becoming warmer. On the morning of the 5th the air was filled with particles of dust that gave it a brownish appearance, and by noon the wind was coming in gusts of air hot as the blasts from a furnace. People who went out of doors protected their faces from the heat and often turned from the wind to recover their breath. The air was heated to suffocation. Women and children found refuge from the hot air in basements and storm cellars. No one had even experienced anything like it before.

By the night of the 2nd day of the storm all vegetation had turned yellow and was becoming crisp and brittle as though dried and baked in a hot oven. The storm of hot winds lasted three days. When it was over the crops were dead, and almost white. None would yield enough of grain to pay the cost of harvest. The simoon had been as destructive as the locusts that a few years before had devastated western Iowa and Minnesota and eastern Kansas and Nebraska. The prairie grass had while standing been turned into uncut hay. The water in the lakes and ponds had disappeared leaving the beds dry and dusty.

Those three days of hot winds were a veritable calamity to the settlers. The crops upon which they had depended were utterly destroyed. It became necessary to borrow money to tide them over until another harvest. The money could be obtained only at the small private banks, of which there were one or two in every village. When they applied for loans the people were astounded to find that they must give a chattel mortgage upon property many times the value of the loan, and must pay interest at the rate of from three to six per cent a month. In addition to that the money lender had a right to take the property at any time he "deemed himself insecure." From the effects of the storm of hot air the settlers would have recovered could they have borrowed money at a reasonable rate of interest, but from the effect of the loans, at the interest rate they had to pay, recovery was impossible. Some men there were who did a legitimate banking business, but their capital was limited. The unscrupulous men who charged the exorbitant rates of interest did more to impoverish and dishearten the early settlers than all the climatic conditions combined. These were the men who intensified the hard times that for years hung like the black pall of despair over the prairies of Dakota.

In the summer of 1886 a cemetery association was organized at Alpena and a burial place selected and purchased southeast of the village. This plat is now owned and cared for by the I. O. O. F. of Alpena.

A mail route between Wessington Springs and Alpena was established in the summer of 1886 with W. S. Corothers as carrier.

A change of postmasters occurred in Alpena in 1886, Mr. W. L. Arnold taking the post office in place of D. F. Royer.

Rev. Geo. F. Bilber was appointed by the conference to the Alpena M. E. Church, Oct. 18th, 1886, but failed to fill the appointment. The church was supplied by Rev. J. G. Campbell until the appointment of W. S. Underwood Oct. 19th the following year, who remained until 1889.

The ministers who have succeeded Mr. Underwood to the present time have been:

N. P. Steves—Oct. 19, 1887 to Oct. 11, 1888, (served with Mr. Underwood, supplying the country appointments).

Thos. Carson—Oct. 1889 to Oct. 1890.

T. H. Hendricks—Oct. 1890 to Oct. 1893.

J. D. Allison—Oct. 1893 to Oct. 1895.

H. S. Coon—Oct. 14, 1895 to Oct. 1898.

R. H. Stokes—Oct. 15, 1898 to Oct. 1900.

W. B. Stewart—Oct. 17, 1900 to Oct. 18, 1902.

Jas. T. Gurney—Oct. 5, 1902 to Oct. 18, 1903.

Pierce O. Bunt—Oct. 18, 1903 to Oct. 21, 1907.

John Kaye—Oct. 21, 1907.

Rev. Wm. Paganhart, who had been preaching for the church at Waterbury during the year ending October 23rd, 1886, was transferred by the conference to the church at Wessington Springs for the year ending Oct. 19, 1887. The ministers of the M. E. Church at Wessington Springs since Mr. Paganhart, have been:

Charles Vessey, Oct. 1887 to Oct. 1890; Joseph Elgon Norvell, Oct. 1890 to — —; J. Wesley Stokesbury, Oct. 1895 to April 1896; J. N. Smith, April 1896 to Oct. 1896; James Clullow, Oct. 1896 to Oct. 1897; S. H. Chappell, Oct. 1897 to Oct. 1899; G. D. Brown, Oct. 1899 to Oct. 1904; J. E. Crowther, Oct. 1904 to Oct. 1906; and J. M. Tibbets, Oct. 1906 to present time.

The second pool and billiard hall in Alpena was run by Thos. Baldwin, in a building erected by him in 1886, until the summer of 1887. Mr. Baldwin then went to Minneapolis, where he still lives. In 1890 Geo. H. Arne went into mercantile business in this building and remained here until he moved out in 1894 taking his stock with him. In 1894 J. R. Milliken bought a stock of goods of J. H. Vessey at Wessington Springs and moved it to the room vacated by Arne. About a year later Milliken sold his stock to H. A. Miller, of Chery township, who moved it back to Wessington Springs. The next occupant of this building was C. C. Isenbuth, of Huron, in 1896. He sold to Franzwa in 1902, Franzwa enlarged the store room, raised the roof, making the building a story and a half high, and placed in front of it the first cement walk laid in the town. A year later Franzwa sold his stock to A. N. Louder, who conducted the business until 1905, when he sold to Messrs. Miles & Hunter. Mr. Franzwa repurchased the stock and building in 1906, and built an addition onto the east side of the store room. The building is now occupied by Mr. Schamber, son of a former state treasurer.

On November 1st, 1886, Mrs. Barber and Miss Litchfield sold the hotel in Alpena to Ray Barber, who remained as proprietor until May 29, 1894. Mrs. Barber and Miss Litchfield then took charge of it again

and retained control until Sept. 1st, 1901. It was then sold to Chas. Miller, who run it about a year and sold to J. T. Fleming. A year later Mr. Miller again took the hotel, but in March, 1903, sold it to Mrs. A. B. Smith. February 1st, 1905, Mrs. Smith sold the property to W. W. Hillis. In the spring of 1908 Hillis sold it to Mrs. Niested of Huron.

In the spring of 1886, Wm. Voss sold his interest in the lumber yard at Alpena to Chas. R. and D. S. Manwarning. They conducted the business during the next ten years and on Aug. 21st, 1898, sold the property to J. D. Chamberlain. In 1901, F. D. Anderson, the present owner, purchased it from Mr. Chamberlain.

The first bank in Alpena was a private concern managed by D. F. Royer, who did the business at a counter behind the usual screen in the back end of the front room of his drug store. This was in 1886.

In the fall of this year W. L. Arnold gave up mercantile business in Alpena and sold his stock to J. R. Milliken, retaining the position of postmaster. It was at the northwest corner of Main and 2nd Streets. Milliken kept the store until the next year and then sold the stock to Roth Bros., of Wessington Springs. They continued the business until 1888 in that room and then went into the new I. O. O. F. building across the street. The Arnold lot and building was purchased by the Presbyterian church organization in 1892 and used by them for a meeting house for nine years. In 1904 J. R. Milliken and J. D. Chamberlain kept a general store in this building, but in the spring of 1885 sold a part of their stock of goods to J. H. Creighton of Wessington Springs, and the balance to Mrs. L. W. Castleman, who continues the business at the present time.

The Jerauld County Agricultural Society had a meeting on the 2nd day of January, 1886, at which they reelected Mr. B. G. Cummings, president, and R. Vandervene, vice-president, H. J. Wallace, secretary, and W. J. Williams, treasurer.

On January 20th a brass band was organized in Wessington Springs. A. E. Turrill, leader. The other members of the band were Al Sturgis, drum major, Jake Rosenthal, Augustin La Point, G. R. Bateman, W. I. Bateman, Ed Campbell, Bert Campbell, Omar Schryock, Chas. Schryock, Tommy Schryock, Geo. Wicks, Ed Andrew and Will B. McDonald.

Several changes were made in the management of the newspapers of the county during 1886. D. F. Royer became the owner of the Jerauld Co. Journal, McDonald and Bateman sold the Wessington Springs Herald to T. L. Blank on the 5th of February.

O. P. Hull became owner of the Waterbury Messenger, successor to the Waterbury News. N. J. Dunham became editor of the Jerauld County Journal April 1st.



Howard Pope.



Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Voorhies.



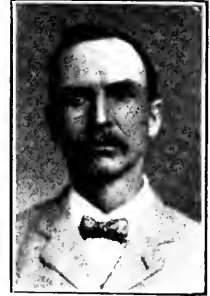
Mrs. Geo. R. Bateman.



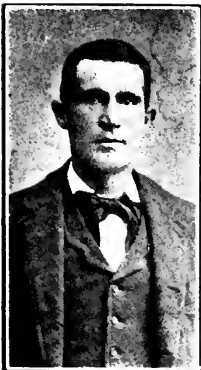
Isaac P. Byam.



A. G. Eberhart and G. N. Price.



N. E. Williams.



Rolla Cady.



Alpena Farmer's Elevator 1889.



Chas. Gingery.

B. B. Blosser, who had been a compositor on the Woonsocket Times for several years, bought the True Republican Dec. 10, 1886, and for several years made it the leading paper of the county.

At Waterbury the general store of C. L. Austin closed on Dec. 15, 1886. About the same time T. H. Null moved his law office to Wessington Springs from Waterbury. During the same month Delos Klink and F. G. Vessey bought the implement business from Vessey Bros., Ransom & Co.

On June 10th, 1886, L. N. Loomis rented to Jake Rosenthal lot 22 in block 4, Alpena, at \$5.00 per month for use as a meat market, lease to take effect June 15th. This was the first market of the kind in the town.

Since Rosenthal the meat market business in Alpena has been controlled in succession by Ed. Hinchliff, J. J. Hillis, Geo. Marsten & J. Venables, John Woods (who put up the building since used as a market), Andrew Mercer and his son Robert, W. H. McMillan & John Chamberlain, W. H. McMillan, L. W. Castleman, L. W. Castleman & C. C. Rohr, C. C. Rohr, and F. Mann, who took possession March 25, 1908.

In 1886 a masonic lodge was organized at Wessington Springs. The number of the lodge was 87 and the name "Frontier." The charter was granted June 10th. The charter members were:

Chas. W. McDonald, W. M.

Cleveland T. Hall, S. W.

W. J. Williams, J. W.

J. E. Sullivan, Treasurer.

E. G. Williams, Secretary.

I. H. French, S. D.

J. T. Ferguson, J. D.

A. S. Beals, Tyler.

M. A. Shaw.

E. V. Miles.

The first new member of the masonic lodge at Wessington Springs was O. E. Williams. The present membership numbers 42.

Chapter 19.

Jefferson Sickler took the oath of office as a county commissioner on the 4th day of January, 1887. Following the precedent set by preceding commissioners the outgoing board settled with the county treasurer, before Mr. Sickler was sworn in. Ever since then the settlement has been made by the new board.

The new board was organized by the election of Mr. L. G. Wilson as chairman.

Mr. Johnston, the outgoing superintendent, had received \$1514.75 as fees and salary during the two years of his term, certainly not a large compensation, but the new board on the 5th of January reduced the salary of that office to \$100 per year.

The True Republican was made the official paper of the county on condition that the paper should publish the minutes of the board and all notices of board meetings free of charge. The legislature then in session passed a law requiring the appointment of three official papers, and on the 5th of April the Jerauld County Journal at Alpena and The Jerauld County Messenger, at Waterbury, were also made official papers, without the aforesaid conditions.

In January 1887 several townships moved for civil township organization. The petition in all but one (Blaine), were granted and elections called for February 1st in Franklin, Marlboro, Alpena, Crow, Antrim, Chery and Viola. The petition from Blaine township was denied because a remonstrance containing more names than were attached to the petition was filed before the board had acted on the petition. On the day that the petitions were granted the board ordered that all civil township names and boundaries should be the same as the school townships.

The county clerk's salary was increased to \$400 per year.

About the first of April, 1887, the county treasurer desired to resign his office and asked the different members of the board to agree to appoint C. E. Thayer in his place. The commissioners refused and Mr. Williams did not resign.

A petition was filed with the county board on the 4th day of April asking them to consent to a change in the place of trial in the Solomon case. After some hesitancy they granted the petition on assurance that the change would obviate the necessity of having a term of court in Jerauld county that year.

April 5th the board declared mustard, Canada thistles and cockle burs to be noxious weeds.

A petition signed by 471 voters was laid before the commissioners on July 7th asking that the question of "local option" be submitted to the

people at the next November election which was granted. A territorial law required that the matter of division of the territory be also submitted.

On July 9th, 1887, H. M. Rice resigned his office of Probate Judge and C. E. Hackett was appointed to the vacancy. Mr. Hackett resigned his position as a county Justice and on the 14th Richard Dalton, of Blaine township, was appointed to that place.

The time had now come for the semi-annual settlement with the treasurer, but the treasurer did not appear. It soon became known that W. J. Williams had absconded. The commissioners took possession of the office. They found in the safe \$189.74. The deputy treasurer, Mary Williams, sister of the treasurer, gave the board checks for the amount in the local bank, which was \$415.00. The shortage was estimated at about \$4,500.

When the excitement incident to this affair had abated a little the commissioners declared the office of treasurer vacant and each member of the board proposed a candidate. Mr. Knudtson nominated J. M. Wheeler, of Blaine township, Mr. Sickler proposed H. A. Peirce, of Harmony township, while the chairman brought forward the name of H. J. Wallace, of Chery. This occurred on the 9th of July. At the next meeting, July 12th, the board elected Mr. Wallace county treasurer to succeed Williams.

On July 13th the board published a statement showing the financial condition of the county. The public debt above the amount due from unpaid taxes, etc., was \$10,153.27.

On the 19th of July Mr. Wallace resigned his position as county surveyor and B. R. Shimp was appointed to the vacancy.

The tax levy was made as follows on the 5th of September:

County school 2 mills, County bridge 1 mill, county road 1 mill, sinking fund 4 mills and county general 6 mills.

The territorial tax in 1887 was three and six-tenths mills and in Jerauld County one mill extra on cattle, horses and mules to pay for animals killed by the state veterinarian.

A petition to increase the number of members of the board from three to five, signed by 137 voters was filed Sept. 6th, but was denied because of it not having a sufficient number of signers.

The Agricultural society, at a meeting held January 4th, 1887, elected L. N. Loomis president and H. A. Miller secretary. At this time the society was about \$90 in debt. To raise money with which to pay off its obligations the plan was proposed and adopted to have a public ball at the court house on Feb. 22nd. The move met with popular favor and \$41 was secured for that purpose. On July 23rd the fair dates were

fixed at Sept. 21, 22 and 23. The result was a successful exhibit, the society closing the year out of debt, and about ten dollars in the treasury.

Several changes were made in the newspaper work of the county in 1887. The first was the purchase of the Waterbury Home-News from M. B. McNeil, in January by O. P. Hull, who changed the name of the paper to "Jerauld County Messenger." In October Mr. Hull bought the Buffalo County Sentinel, and about the middle of December he bought W. R. Pooley's Crow Lake Homesteader. Both papers were consolidated with the Messenger. April 1st, N. J. Dunham rented the Jerauld County Journal for one year.

The real estate firm of Hudson & Heart at Waterbury dissolved partnership in March, 1887, Mr. Hudson retiring from the business.

Among the churches, of course, some changes were made in the pastorates. The M. E. Conference in October appointed Rev. Chas. Vessey to Wessington Springs, W. H. Underwood to Alpena, and D. P. Olin to Waterbury. At the latter place C. V. Martin had been employed by the people to preach for six months, commencing in March.

The County S. S. Association held its meeting at Wessington Springs, June 10.

May 15th a Sunday School was organized at school house No. 3 in Pleasant township, with C. D. Coley, Supt.

The Wesleyan Methodists held their last quarterly meeting for that conference year in a large tabernacle erected at Lyndale, Sept. 17th and 18th.

In Media township a union Sunday school was formed at the school house in district No. 2, Mr. A. S. Beals, Supt.

Quarterly meeting services of the German M. E. Church were held at the Nesmith school house, May 29, 1887.

A union Sabbath school was held at Dale Center also during the summer of 1887.

The people of Viola and Anina townships observed Arbor Day in 1887, by planting trees and laying out walks in Union cemetery.

I have been unable to obtain the roll of the G. A. R. Post at Waterbury, but it is probable that at this time it contained the following members:

A. E. White, H. Merwin, W. A. Rex, E. S. Waterbury, Geo. N. Price, J. M. Corbin, H. M. Rice, H. Herring, H. A. Jones, D. F. Jones, Henry Fogarty, James Long, A. S. Fordham, H. Herman, R. S. Russell, T. J. Hunt and Flavins Curtis.

A creamery had been established in Woonsocket and the managers were anxious to secure the trade of Jerauld county. In May of 1887 an arrangement was made with Mr. A. B. Smart to gather cream from the

county north, west and south of the Springs, and deliver it to the creamery wagon, which would come to Wessington Springs for it. This was continued through the summer and fall, the cream checks being cashed at the local stores. It was so successful that a move began Oct. 29th to establish an institution of that kind in Wessington Springs.

In April, 1887, the Woodburn Hotel changed hands and Mr. A. B. Easter became proprietor. He continued in charge of it until about the 25th of Sept., when Geo. N. Price, of Waterbury, purchased the property and on Oct. 3rd, 1887, moved in and became resident of the county seat. About two weeks later Mr. Price rented the livery barn in Wessington Springs owned by E. B. Orr. The Wessington Springs-Woonsocket stage line had been purchased by Mr. Price, Aug. 16th, and A. G. Eberhart put on that line as driver. A new stage wagon with a canvas cover was provided and traveling over that line was made as comfortable as possible,—a long and tedious ride at the best. He was at this time owner of the Woonsocket line, the Crow Lake line, which became a daily line June 1st, the Miller line and Belford line. Rolla Cady drove the mail to Miller, Gehlial Barnum to Crow Lake and Will Moss was on the Belford line. This was undoubtedly the severest winter, especially for stage drivers in the history of the county, yet Price was as reliable with his mail lines as was the famous Ben Halliday with his pony express. Storms were frequent in November and December, blocking the trains and obstructing the mails on all railroads.

On October 1st the mail route between Alpena and Wessington Springs was discontinued.

The first "special delivery" letter to arrive at the Wessington Springs P. O. came on Monday, Oct. 3, 1887. It was addressed to C. W. McDonald, clerk of courts, and was delivered by Postmaster Barrett.

At Alpena, on June 8, 1887, L. N. Loomis rented Lot 2, Block 7, to F. W. Whitney at \$75 per year for use as a post office, lease to take effect July 1st, at which time Mr. Whitney succeeded W. L. Arnold as postmaster.

In the same year Geo. Brooks took Frank Wheelihan's place in the depot at Alpena. Since then the station agents at Alpena have been: M. Mellette, Renshaw, A. Amundson, C. G. Boom and Mr. Buechler.

In the same year that Whitney took the Alpena post office J. A. Crawford, who with his blacksmith shop had been "holding down his claim," the SW of 3 in Dale township, for several months, moved his shop and his residence back to town again.

In the summer of 1887, J. T. Johnston sold his Alpena grain warehouse to McMichael, who made an elevator of it in 1901. Soon after selling his warehouse Johnston became interested in baseball. He took

charge of the team at Alpena and arranged for a game with the Woonsocket nine at Wessington Springs, during the fair week in September. An immense crowd gathered to see the game and cheered itself hoarse when the Alpena boys won the game.

Some business changes were made in Wessington Springs. In the forepart of February Allan Ransom and J. H. Vessey, the founders of the business, drew out of the company. Vessey Bros., Ransom & Co. Ransom left the county, but Vessey took charge of the Crow Lake store as manager on a salary.

In the last week in April, Mr. Blosser moved the True Republican office into the Drake building, Mr. Drake having moved to Faulkton.

Mr. E. H. Ford put a chair in the front room of his building on the south side of Main street, and during two days each week run a barber shop.

Geo. Bickford, of Woonsocket, opened a meat market in Wessington Springs Aug. 8, 1887, but on the eighteenth of the same month sold out to Geo. R. Bateman and E. L. Hinchliff.

It may not be generally known, yet it is a fact that Jerauld and Aurora counties in 1887 had a railroad company, all their own. Mr. Heintz of White Lake, was president, J. R. Milliken, of Alpena, was treasurer and T. H. Null, of Wessington Springs was secretary. The name of the road was "The Duluth, Huron and Pacific." The plan of the road was to connect with the Great Northern at Huron and cross the Missouri at Wheeler, in Charles Mix county.

The building of the Great Northern into Huron started the C. M. & St. P. in the construction of a line south through Faulk, Hand, Jerauld and Aurora counties to connect with a line extending from Tripp in Hutchinson county to Armour in Douglas county. The contract for grading the line through Pleasant and Harmony townships was let to the Murray Bros., and the settlers thought their days of waiting for railroad facilities were over. The Great Northern built their line to Huron and stopped. The C. M. & St. P. built their line to Orient, in Hand county, and stopped. For twenty-two years those railroad companies have been watching each other, and the settlers have been watching them.

On July 26, 1887, a gun club was organized at Wessington Springs with A. M. Mathias, president, and B. B. Blosser, secretary. The object was sport and enforcement of the game laws. Several contests were had with sportsmen from Alpena and Waterbury, but no one was prosecuted for violating the law.

The new superintendent of schools began early in his term to organize the teachers of the county for professional work. In February, 1887, township institute work started in Pleasant township to which Media and

Harmony were united for that purpose. They were continued once a month till the close of the school year.

With the beginning of the next school year the work was revived and much enthusiasm put into the meetings which were held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. At the Trollope school house an institute began on the 19th of November for the teachers of Logan, Crow, Pleasant and Crow Lake townships. The next Saturday, Nov. 26th, the teachers of Viola, Anina, Media, and Wessington Springs were brought together for institute work at the Nesmith school house in Viola. Dec. 3rd an institute began at Dale Center school house for Alpena, Dale and Chery townships. At the northwest school house of Blaine township a similar meeting was arranged on Dec. 17th for Franklin and Blaine.

On the 24th of October, a county teachers institute was opened at the court house in Wessington Springs with J. W. Harden as instructor. Twenty-nine teachers were in attendance. The list follows:

Mesdames Anna Tryon, C. A. Dunham, R. A. Gregory, Misses Mary Williams, Minnie Stanley, Nellie Jacobs, Ella Hewitt, Kate McLean, Addie Powell, May Hunt, Ella Allyn, Anna Peterson, Sarah Fish, Jennie Holcomb, Jeanette Richardson and Messrs. Fred Luke, J. A. Ford, T. L. White, B. R. Shimp, A. J. Miller, John R. Francis, W. L. Holden, John F. Wicks, John Holmes, A. H. Elliott, Chas. Beach, Geo. O. Williams, Fred Fisher, and N. E. Williams.

On the evening of the first day of the institute a reception was given the teachers by the people of Wessington Springs. It was arranged by Mr. Binford and it was a very pleasant affair.

The year 1887 was a year of abundant harvest. Some authentic reports were made of yields that were astonishing. There is a strip of country along the east part of Alpena township that has never suffered loss either from fire, or storm. In this favored region Chas. Bechtold raised a field of wheat that year that was threshed by Ferguson and Monroe, who produced their books to show that the yield was forty-three bushels per acre.

Chapter 20.

The local papers at Wessington Springs on the 28th day of January, 1887, published a short notice calling a meeting to be held at the M. E. Church on February 5th to consider the matter of securing the location of a Free Methodist seminary at Wessington Springs. The meeting was not largely attended. It had been called at the instance of Rev. A. B. Smart. Mr. John Chapman was elected chairman of the meeting and Albert Gunderson, secretary. A committee was appointed whose duty was to solicit aid toward securing the location of the school at the county seat of Jerauld county. The committee was composed of M. D. Crow, I. S. Binford, T. K. Ford, A. B. Smart, S. F. Huntley and J. O. Gray. But few of the men appointed to that committee were present at the meeting which named them, and Mr. Smart was requested to notify them of their appointment. There is no record of any meeting of that committee and in all probability none was ever held. But be that as it may, its working force was the man who called the meeting on Feb. 5th. In this opportunity Mr. Smart saw the fulfillment of a plan conceived, evolved and worked out to the minutest detail, during the years of his middle life. It was this scheme, that had beckoned him, with all the learning got at two colleges, from both of which he had graduated with honor, to bring his family away from the intellectual and social culture of New England, to "set his stake" in an uninhabited wilderness. For this he had braved everything, privations and hardships in common with the poorest and most ignorant settler, and disappointments. But few can imagine the eagerness throbbing in his brain when he asked the newspaper man to publish the call for the meeting. To him it meant the achievement of an ambition, to this people it meant the acquisition of possibilities that might never be offered them again. Of all those present he alone was the man who could do. Yet he was neither made presiding officer of the meeting nor chairman of the committee. Another date was set, Feb. 12th, at which the committee should report. Because of a storm the meeting to be held at that time was postponed until the 19th.

On the 19th of February the location committee of the church met at Mitchell to discuss the site for the school. Mr. Smart was there. Men from several cities and towns were there urging the advantages they could offer to the committee. Many places could offer more of population and greater wealth, but Jerauld county had an asset that was worth more in the mind of the committee than all else and that was its strong moral and temperance sentiment. Alone Mr. Smart made the fight and won. He got from the church committee a conditional location of the institution at Wessington Springs. True, those conditions were hard for a

town of less than 200 population, but he had won in the first move and felt sure of success. A sub-committee of three members, with full power to locate the school if the conditions were obtained was appointed at Mitchell. This committee was composed of Rev. J. B. Freeland, G. C. Coffee and A. W. Hayes. This committee met at the Springs on the 22nd. Mr. Smart was there. He secured donations of land amounting to nearly 5000 acres, giving a large part of it himself.

The plan of the church was to make the school preparatory, collegiate and theological. On the 25th of March Mr. Smart published a notice to all students of the county who had passed the grades of common schools to call on him before arranging to go away to school. The purpose of this notice was to interest the boys and girls, and through them, the parents of the community, in the proposed home school.

About the middle of April the location committee made their final demand. It was that in addition to the land already pledged the people should raise for the school \$2,000 in cash. A. B. Smart and C. G. Coffee were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions. To men less in earnest, or less determined, the task set before them would have seemed impossible. They were asked to get for the school, in absolute gifts a sum of money equal to about one-twelfth of the total assessed value of all the personal property of Wessington Springs township.

On the 31st of May Mr. Smart reported to the full church committee at Mitchell, and was rewarded with the permanent location of the school at Wessington Springs. The grounds of the seminary campus were surveyed Sept. 1st on the tract at the foot of the hills donated to the school by Mr. Smart. During that week the trustees of the school held a meeting in Wessington Springs and selected the spot upon which to erect the seminary building. At this meeting they let the contract to Wm. Bremner, of Harmony township to build the foundation wall to be 40x60 feet, and 11 feet high, 2½ feet thick at the bottom and two feet thick at the top. In the rear of this wall an addition must be built, 16x24; the whole to be completed in five weeks. They arranged to open the school on Nov. 8, 1887. Later it was found necessary to change the date of opening the school to Nov. 15th.

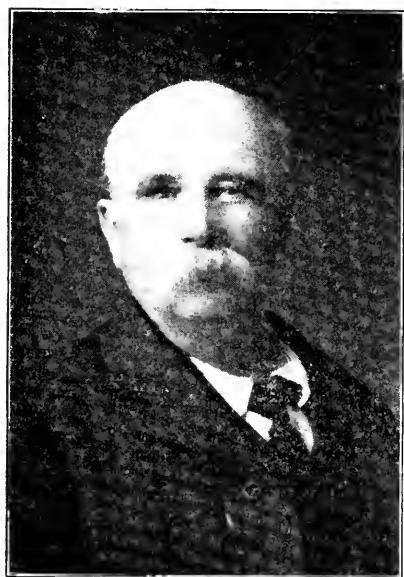
When the wall was completed a roof was put over the main building and the addition, and covered with tar paper. The structure, when completed ready for the first term of school, (they didn't call it "semester" in those days) had very much the appearance of a farm shed for animals, —so much so that for several years it was referred to by the students as "the sheep shed." It was necessary to again put off the day of opening.



John F. Wicks.



T. H. Null.



Samuel Marlence.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dalton.

The faculty secured for the seminary was Rev. J. K. Freeland, principal, Mrs. J. K. Freeland, preceptress, Miss Mary Freeland, teacher, and Mrs. A. B. Smart, teacher of music. The board of trustees was composed of Rev. J. B. Freeland, president; Rev. C. G. Coffee, secretary and financial agent; A. W. Hayes, treasurer, and W. S. Chamberlain, Rev. A. B. Smart, I. N. Rich, and D. M. Lewis.

The formal opening occurred on the 29th of November, 1887. The faculty and trustees were there and many of the people of Wessington Springs. The first hymn sung in the new school was old "Coronation." The occasion was, of course, given over mainly to speech-making. The prophecies of success made that day have been more than realized in the years that have followed. One of the most fitting things done that day was the tendering of public thanks, unanimously by a rising vote, to A. B. Smart for securing the location of the seminary at Wessington Springs.

On December 1st, 1887, the following named students were enrolled:

Miss Mary Piper, Miss Lulu Smart, Miss Edith Thomas, Miss Alice Fear, R. C. Smith, J. W. Osborne, W. E. A. Thornton, W. B. Wilson, J. E. Brenner, H. C. Fear, Alfred C. Thompson and Dale C. Wallace.

A few days later, Dec. 17th, the "Alpha" literary society was organized.

The legislature of 1887 passed an act providing for a vote on the subject of division of the territory, the election to be held on the usual election day—the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

A non-partizan delegate convention had been called to meet at Huron in July, and on July 7th a mass convention was held at the court house in Wessington Springs to elect representatives from Jerauld county. Chas. Davis of Alpena was made chairman and B. B. Blosser, secretary of the meeting. Delegates to the Huron convention were selected as follows: D. F. Royer, B. B. Blosser, W. R. Day, J. W. Harden, B. R. Shimp. At Huron a division campaign committee was appointed for Jerauld county, composed of John Chapman and H. A. Miller—one democrat and one republican. The county committee had but little to do, for the sentiment in favor of dividing the territory and admitting it into the Union as two states was nearly unanimous.

But another matter that interested the people more than division was coming up for settlement at the election on the 8th of November:

The petition with 471 signers asking for submission of the local option question was not forgotten. Under the law the commissioners were bound to submit it, and the temperance people began to prepare for the contest. At that time Mrs. Nettie C. Hall was president of the county W. C. T. U. and Mrs. E. V. Miles was at the head of the Pioneer W. C. T. U. Both were well qualified to conduct a contest such as was before

them. They had the advantage of the campaign and the victory of two years before. Practically the same methods were used. A law and order league was formed with I. N. Rich, of Harmony township as president. During October prohibition meetings were held in all the townships of the county. A lodge of the I. O. G. T. was organized at Wessington Springs with a large membership. It was named "Haddock Lodge" No. 190. The officers were: A. Sturgis, C. T.; Lillian Bateman, V. T.; J. G. Campbell, Chap.; B. B. Blosser, Sec'y.; Eva L. Hawthorne, A. S.; Maude Campbell, F. S.; Mrs. Mary Bateman, Treas.; Nate Spears, Sen.; H. P. Campbell, Guard; E. S. Campbell, Mar.; Minnie Shryock, Ass't. Mar.; Mary Williams, R. S. C. T., and Mrs. J. G. Campbell, L. S. C. T.

The election for 1887 was called by the county commissioners, Oct. 5th. The precincts, for some unknown reason, were made the same as those for the school election in February, 1884.

A county commissioner was to be elected in the 2nd district, then composed of Anina, Media, Chery, Viola and Wessington Springs townships.

A republican convention to nominate a candidate was called to meet Oct. 29th. It was a delegate convention and nominated Alonzo Converse, of Anina township. On the surface everything seemed to be satisfactory. The candidate was known to be both honest and efficient. He had been identified with the "bolting" movement of 1886.

On the evening of the 5th of November, but two days before election, a party of politicians gathered in the office of the True Republican at Wessington Springs to discuss the situation, and devise ways and means to encompass the defeat of Judge Converse. The first essential, of course, was an opposing candidate. After much discussion they decided upon Mr. John Grant, a farmer, living a mile south of Wessington Springs. Mr. Grant had not been in any way connected with either faction, but was known to be a firm believer in Republican principles. They determined to make him their candidate and take the chance of his accepting the office if elected. Then the work was laid out for each man to do. The party broke up near midnight and some of them got scarcely a wink of sleep until the polls were closed on the next Tuesday evening. The democrats had not put up a candidate and the fight was wholly among the republicans. The supporters of Mr. Converse were not thoroughly aware of the move until late Monday morning. By that time nearly every man, democrat as well as republican, that could possibly be induced to refrain from voting for the regular nominee had been seen. The result was the election of Mr. Grant by a vote of 129 to 100, and the election of almost the entire democratic ticket a year later.

On the questions of division of the territory but few votes were cast against the two-state plan.

On the sale of liquor in the county the vote was a surprise. In the various townships the result was as follows:

	For the sale.	Against the sale.
Alpena	21	48
Franklin	1	32
Blaine	17	14
Viola	9	33
Wessington Springs and part of Dale	1	64
Chery	10	29
Media	2	27
Anima	0	44
Crow Lake	12	21
Pleasant	6	38
Harmony	6	30
Marlar	9	22
Crow	6	25
Logan	9	12
Totals	109	439

Chapter 21.

THE GREAT BLIZZARD.

The winter of 1887—88 was one of unusual severity. The storms began in November, 1887, and each was more terrific than any that had been experienced by the settlers since the storm of 1879, when Williams, the mail carrier, was so nearly frozen to death on Elm Creek. The weather increased in severity as the winter advanced, the snow getting deeper and the cold becoming more intense. The 9th of January, 1888, was very cold with a light south wind. The 10th was slightly warmer, but with a stronger south wind. On the 11th the wind was blowing a gale still from the south and the snow was drifting badly. On the morning of Thursday, the 12th of January, the wind had fallen and become quite warm. The snow was melting a little. Great banks of fog fifteen to twenty miles wide rested across the prairies from the vicinity of the Black

Hills eastward into Minnesota. Between these banks of fog were stretches of country from thirty to forty miles in width where the sun shone brightly. One of these fog banks ran east and west along the C. & N. W. Ry., through the central part of Beadle, Hand and Hyde counties. Over all of Jerauld county the morning was warm and bright.

Farmers took advantage of the pleasant weather to go to town or to go to fetch hay from the prairie. All felt a relief from the rigorous wintry weather that had preceded. In Jerauld county at that time were 1025 children of school age. Owing to the balmy condition of the air, probably a greater percentage of those children went to school that day than on any previous day for weeks.

T. L. White, who lived at the hills in Chery township, was engaged as teacher in what was then known as the Kinney school, which stood on the southwest corner of section 8. On the morning of the 12th of January he went to the school house as usual, but stopped when he arrived at the top of the range of hills and for several minutes stood looking off over the Jim River valley, enjoying a scene and a morning that were simply glorious. Low down on the northern and southern horizons were dense, black cloud banks, while all about him and away over the white plain at his feet, were the busy farm homes all bathed in the warm sunlight and fanned by the warm southern breeze. He went on to the school house and kindled the fire. The children came in one, two, or three, at a time until nearly the whole school was present. It was too pleasant to stay in doors and at the forenoon recess all were out running, shouting and playing games.

As the school bell rang some of the children remarked that "the clouds up north are coming." Mr. Wihte looked from the window just in time to see a whirling mass come rolling down upon the school house. A cold wave had been driven by a furious wind into the most northern of the fog banks, freezing it into particles fine as sifted flour. This had been driven at the rate of sixty miles an hour down upon the next bank where the same thing occurred. So one after another those great wind rows of fog were picked up and hurled southward. The mass was blinding, suffocating, freezing. The coal house of the Kinney school was but a few feet from the school building, but yet it was with great difficulty that the teacher and larger pupils succeeded in getting enough fuel to keep the room warm. All day and all night the school children stayed with Mr. Wihte in the school house.

As the storm rushed south and east, picking up the fog banks, one after another, it became more and more stifling and fatal to people or animals caught by it. The death rate shows a steady increase as the volume of wind, cold and snow swept on. In Spink county three were

frozen; in Hand 6; in Jerauld 5; in Bon Homme 19; in Lincoln 20; in Turner 23, while in Iowa, but few escaped without serious injury who were caught by the storm where there were no fences to guide them. The great blizzard spread over the entire Mississippi Valley and at nearly the same time struck the coast all the way from Galveston, Texas, to Boston, Mass.

But the foregoing is sufficient to show the nature and extent of the storm. We have to do only with Jerauld county.

Chapter 22.

Pleasant Hill school house, at the time of the great blizzard, was located on the north line of section 27 in Logan township, near the cemetery and close to where it now stands. The school house was small and the nineteen pupils were crowded together—three to each desk. The popularity of Mr. John Wicks as a teacher drew to this school nearly half of the school children of the township. Among those who went to his school, and attended on the 12th day of January, 1888, were:

Ernest Bailey, Edith Bailey, Guy Frick, Harry K. Frick, Will Heineman, August Heineman, Hattie Krumwied, Charles Krumwied, Minnie Meyers, Henry Meyers, Herman Meyers, John Meyers, Lizzie Pflaum, Andrew Pflaum, Minnie Walters, Henry Walters, Fred Kappleman, August Kappleman, Minnie Kappleman, and Lena Kappleman.

The residence of August Kappleman, one of the patrons of the school, stood about 150 yards from the school house.

The story of this school is best told in the language of the teacher, John F. Wicks, who, a few days after the storm wrote a full account of it to his friend, Mr. Frank D. Scott, at Mt. Zion, Ill. The letter was published at the time in one of the local papers of ——— county, Ill.

"Now for the story, 'My First Experience in a Blizzard.'" Date, January 12th, 1888.

The day preceding it snowed and drifted all day, wind in the south. Thursday morning there was a double ring visible around the sun, a light wind from the south, a dull, obscure, hazy atmosphere, with the temperature about freezing. The children all reached school earlier than usual on account of a storm coming from the northwest, working up against the wind. After school called I did not notice the storm until it struck the house. The wind suddenly shifted to the northwest and in an instant we were in a fierce, blinding storm of snow and sleet. Ten

feet was beyond the limit of vision unless you looked the way the wind was blowing. The temperature fell rapidly, the wind blew the snow under the door, up from the floor, in the windows and even from above, so that with constant and careful attention the room was kept barely comfortable. Noon came, no abatement. Very few ventured out of the house. Spent all noon in getting in coal and shoveling snow from the coal house which was nearly full of snow. Recess—gale increased if anything. Night came—no stop whatever in the storm, and we came to the conclusion to stay in the school house all night. I asked the boys to help 'do chores,' bring in coal enough to last all night, while I went to a neighbor's house (Kappleman's, 150 yards away) and see what arrangements could be made, leaving orders for no one to leave the house till I came back. Started for the neighbor's (side wind) which I reached without difficulty, obtained wraps for the children, then returned. Travelled by guess, for seeing was out of the question; the wind was no guide—as shifting and deceitful as the Will-o-the-wisp. My scheme was to get the girls to the neighbor's, and the boys and I would bunk in the school house. Told the boys (12) to get more coal in so not to go out in the night, and be sure not to try to leave the house, while I took the girls to the neighbor's. Nine girls and one big boy (19 years old) joined hand-in-hand, were to follow me, thus leaving me free to lead the way, the big boy behind.

Half way over I turned to see if all were coming and found the line broken and children scattered. Stopped, got all together and try to keep together, but by turning lost my bearing. (Put yourself in my place). Placed the wraps over them and told them not to move until we knew which way to go. In a few moments I found the big rocks. (130 feet due east of the house) and moved the girls there and bunched them again. They were crying with the cold then and the big boy said he was freezing. The snow and sleet would cut our faces so we would almost smother and not see a particle; the wind would whirl every way, yet we all knew we were less than 150 feet from the house. But which way was west. Horror or horrors! I placed the boy as far from the girls as he could see and I went as much farther from him. This was done several times in different directions and at last I found the cuttings nearer the house; got down on my hands and knees, found a row and followed that until I knew I was near, or ought to be near, the house; pulled the ice from my face and beheld the house not more than twenty feet from where I stood. I lost no time in getting the children in, who were all crying piteously with the cold.

We were out about fifteen minutes, but nearly all were frosted, several pretty badly, so much so that fingers, faces and feet were blistered.

The teacher undid the wraps, put frozen limbs in water and did all he could before he knew he was 'touched.'

The lady spread bread and butter for the boys, and we started back. While these doings were going on the sun had gone down, the boy was afraid to go, and the best policy being not to risk chances again of a night on the prairie, with the snow for a winding sheet, if we went back. Nobody cared for supper; all went to bed to keep warm; 14 persons in a 14x20 house; sleep was out of the question. Between 12 and 1 A. M. the wind lulled for a few moments. I arose, dressed and started for the school house, which I reached without mishap. All were safe around the fire where we stayed till broad daylight. The thermometer registered 30 degrees below zero, with a stiff wind blowing from the north west. A truly happy boy, thinking what was and what might have been. I thank the Father of all Mercies for care and guidance. My mitten had been wet while shoveling snow and getting in coal, so when I first pulled it off became as a board, at least I could not get my hand in it. That hand, the right, was frozen badly, blisters on my wrist as large as a dollar; face 'touched' a little, hand is sore yet, hardly use it with any comfort and everything hits it. Saturday I turned out to help hunt for the dead, was gone all day. Mr. Byers (C. H. will remember him) was found four miles from home frozen stiff. John F. Wicks."

The experience of Miss May Hunt and her pupils of the Knieriem school in Harmony township was still more terrible and would have been a heart rending affair but for the fortitude and heroism of one of the scholars, Fred C. Weeks. I am able to give two views of the storm in that school district—one from the parents at home anxious for the safety of their children, who for aught they knew were lost in the storm, and the other that of the school huddled in a little pile of flax straw for twelve hours, while the terrible fury of the storm raged about them. A letter by Rev. S. F. Huntley, still a resident of Harmony township, written a few years after the storm to a friend in New York, is before me and from it I copy the following:

"The climate is somewhat variable and it is not always possible to tell what is coming next; pleasant weather is the rule but storms are not unknown. On the 12th of January, 1888, a blizzard surprised us; we had been calling every storm a blizzard, but then decided that we had never had a blizzard before and never wanted one again. The morning was warm, thawing, and the wind was in the south. It wheeled suddenly to the northwest and rolled over the country a wave of frozen mist or fine snow, like flour, so dense that one could not see four feet. In fact it so filled the eyes that one could not see at all. It penetrated the ears, nose, and mouth, and clothes,

every crevice in every building, knothole, keyhole, nail hole, and crack that the air would go through, and there seemed to be a strong draft inward through every crevice. Our three children were at school, and only the baby, four years old, at home with us. The storm struck us at about 10 A. M., and raged till the next morning about 4 o'clock. When night came wife was very uneasy and depressed—wondering if I could not go for the children, but it was impossible; I scarcely made the house at less than 40 rods away when the storm struck, and the children were a mile away. So I comforted her with the assurance that the teacher would stay with all the scholars at the school house, and if they should undertake to reach her boarding place, some 15 or 20 rods away, they could probably make it. We commended the precious ones to God and waited. So confident was I that the children were all right that next morning I did the chores the first thing; they were left undone the night before, as it was impossible to do them. The weather had grown rapidly colder; from thawing when the storm started till now the mercury stood 30 degrees below zero, and a stiff northwest wind, but the sun shone bright and clear. I was warming my feet at the stove expecting then to go after the children, when the door was opened and in rushed a neighbor without rapping, who exclaimed excitedly: "You better be seeing after your children; they stayed in a straw-stack last night." I would not have been more astonished if I had been assaulted. "Are they alive?" I demanded. "I don't know, I didn't hear any particular." "How do you know that they were in a straw stack?" "Mr. Knieriem was over to Mr. Dingle's and told us." "What did Mr. Knieriem want? Did he come over to tell you?" "No, he came after some beef's gall." "Were his children in the stack?" "Yes, the teacher and all the scholars." "Are any of them alive?" "I don't know; I didn't hear any of the particulars." "Why didn't you find out if they were alive?" "As soon as he told us I put on my coat and came right over to let you know." Wife was almost frantic with anxiety and suspense. I could only comfort her with this hope—they cannot be all dead or Mr. Knieriem would have no use for beef's gall. It did not take long for Mr. Bartie and me to get there with my fleetest horse—he took care of the animal and I went in. They were all alive, but very much the worse for their contact with a blizzard. All were frozen more or less but only one, Addie Knieriem, suffered permanent injury; she lost one foot and the toes of the other. Our children escaped most easily. Mary lost the cuticle from the feet to her knees. Mabelle the same and the skin from one heel. They undertook to go from the school house to Mr. Hinnens, a distance of 15 or 20 rods, where the teacher boarded, but missed the house and ran upon a pile of flax straw—a couple of loads he had hauled up for fuel as near to the door

as he thought safe, perhaps 4 or 5 rods. Unable to find the house or to make the inmates hear they dug into the stack and stayed till morning. The oldest boy, a young man 18 years old, as soon as the storm subsided enough so that he could see the house hobbled to the door with feet and hands frozen and aroused Mr. Hinnners who came out and helped them in. The teacher had her feet badly frozen, but had been keeping up the spirits of her pupils bravely during the night and keeping them awake. Now the reaction came on, and when I came in she cried and all the scholars with her. The catastrophe, the feeling of responsibility, and the fear of being blamed were too much for her and she gave way. She was a member of my church, as were also the parents of Addie Knieriem. Wife wanted to go back east as soon as possible—the first discontent I had heard from her since we settled here; but a little later, a still more destructive blizzard in New England and New York reconciled her again. Five persons lost their lives in that storm in our county; and a large number of horses, hogs, cattle and sheep, I never learned how many. I lost one heifer; she could not make her way to the barn, 40 rods, although the rest got in safely. I was out watering them and had a task to reach the house. There were many narrow escapes and it seems a wonder that only five perished. A genuine blizzard is attended with electricity. A person would receive a shock from the stove during that storm. A high wind usually prevails."

The Knieriem school house was located at the southeast corner of section 33 in Harmony township, on what was then known as the Clapham land. It was a frame building 12x16, about which a sod wall had been built. The site where the school house stood is still plainly discernable as is also that of the Hinner's house, which stood about 140 yards west of it but on the south side of the section line on the northeast corner of section 5 in Pleasant township. Not to exceed thirty yards west of the Hinner's house was about two tons of flax straw, placed there by Mr. Hinnners for use as fuel. Between the school house and the Hinnners residence was a gully about five feet deep, with steep banks, that extended from the hills on the north to the valley south of the section line. Across this gully a small bridge or culvert had been constructed and a well defined path led from the school house to the Hinner place. A few rows of small trees had been planted between the Hinner's house and the section line.

Mr. George Knieriem lived a mile west of the school house, Mr. Dingle 80 rods east of it and Mr. Huntley three fourths of a mile east of Dingle's. Mr. Frank Weeks' residence was then about a mile north-east of the school house.

The teacher in the Knieriem school house at the time of the great

blizzard was Miss May Hunt, a sister of Mrs. J. H. Vessey of Wessington Springs. The pupils were Fred and Charles Weeks, Mary, Ernest and Mabelle Huntley, and Frank and Addie Knieriem.

On the morning of the 12th of January, 1888, all the pupils arrived at the school house early and amused themselves coasting down the steep hills until the school bell rang. A short time after the children were called into the school room to their lessons the hills and valleys were enveloped in the frightful storm.

All day the wind continued to shake the little shanty and its sod walls. Through every nail hole and crack it drove the snow, fine as flour, sifting it onto the floor, seats and desks. The children's clothing and books were powdered white and the stove gave off a constant hissing sound as the moisture fell upon it. The school work continued until the hour for dismissal, though but little could be done because of the terrible din of the storm howling and shrieking without.

By four o'clock in the afternoon the fuel supply was exhausted and the teacher determined to take the pupils to the Hinner's house. Twice Fred Weeks made the trip to the bridge across the gully and returned, just to see if it was possible to go through the blinding storm. About half past four the whole school was ready to make the effort. Joining hands, with Fred Weeks in the lead they started. Nothing could be seen and even breathing was difficult. They soon lost the path to the bridge and plunged into the little ravine a few feet south of the line. Here the teacher's veil became disarranged and an effort was made to replace it. Then all started again, climbing the west bank of the gully as best they could, Addie Knieriem losing the wraps that were tied about her shoes in doing so. They passed along the south side of the rows of trees, expecting every moment to reach the house. The snow was drifted over the path and they could not find it. When nearly exhausted from their struggle with the snow and wind they came against the pile of flax straw. They had passed between the house and the trees missing the building by not to exceed six feet. Fortunately they found a pitch fork and a lath at the stack and with these Fred and Charles began with furious energy to clear away the snow and dig a hole into the side of the pile of straw. In a few moments they had made a place large enough to crowd the teacher and pupils in out of the sweep of the wind.

Having provided the rest of the school with a shelter the three older boys—Fred, Ernest and Charles now endeavored to find the Hinner's residence. Some of the girls had worn aprons to school and these were torn into strips and tied into a long string. Taking one end of the string Fred went out into the storm and began circling about in hope of reaching, or at least getting in sight of the house. It was no use. He could

see nothing. The storm was blinding, suffocating and bewildering. He followed the string back to the straw pile. Then they called, shouted, screamed—singly and in chorus, but there was little chance of their being heard above the howling of the wind. They now made preparations to spend the night in the stack. The hole was dug farther back into the straw and all crowded into it, Fred taking his place at the entrance. It was a long night. They told stories, they sung, every few moments the roll was called. There was but little complaining, although some were freezing. Fred Weeks, as the oldest boy in the school, was looked to as leader and he felt that upon him rested the burden of bringing the school through alive. He kept the others awake and made them talk, and sing and move and laugh, although occasionally one would cry. So the storm and the night passed. About four o'clock in the morning the twinkling stars, which Fred saw from his place at the side of the stack, told him the storm was abating. He arose and looked about. The cold was intense and the wind still blowing, but through the flying snow he caught a glimpse of the Hinner's residence, but a short distance away. His feet were badly frozen but he staggered through the snow until he reached the house and aroused the inmates.

The teacher and pupils were taken to the house, all more or less frost bitten. Addie Knieriem had to be carried. Her feet were so badly frozen that amputation became necessary. Fred's feet were so badly frozen that the flesh dropped off, but he finally recovered.

Chapter 23.

At the Young school house in Crow township Mrs. C. V. Martin was the teacher, but for some reason she was late that morning in getting started for the school house. The storm came on just as she was getting into the sleigh, and she remained at her boarding place. Of the pupils only two, Will and Wert Berger went to the school house that morning. They remained there until the next day.

At the west school house in Dale township Fred Dickerson was teacher. The pupils were E. K. Robison and his brother Walter, Bert and Lary Pinard and Clark, Frank and John Easter. Aside from the inconvenience of staying all night at the school house they were none the worse for the storm.

At the time of the great blizzard R. J. Miller was teaching the Barber school, located at the northwest corner of section 35 in Pleasant

township. The pupils in attendance on the 12th of January, 1888, were Emery, Richard, Amelia, Emma and Cora Barber and Sarah and Anna Elmore. A young man named Frank Harrington took Mr. Barber's team that morning to take the children to the school house. The storm struck when they were but a few yards from the school. They reached the house safely, but were compelled to stay there until the next morning. Heavy blankets were thrown over the horses and tied on so they came through the storm in good condition though badly chilled.

At the same time Miss Minnie Stanley, (now Mrs. S. W. Boyd of Pleasant township) was teaching in the Waterbury school. This school house was located about forty rods north and a little west of the north end of the Main St. of the town. The pupils in attendance on the day of the great blizzard were, Clara Leeds, Walter Rowe, Agnew Hull, Elton Hill, Frank and Percy Snart, Frank, Jennie and Clara Hopkins, Elmer and Minnie Waterbury, Della, Ernest and Arthur Herring and Rasmus Nelson.

When school closed at four o'clock in the afternoon, the teacher formed the pupils in line holding each others hands, and placing herself at the head, started for the village. She had placed Percy Snart, the largest of the boys, the last in the line, to bring up any who might falter or break away. Nothing serious happened until they reached the four corners by Herring & Rice's store. There a high bank of snow had formed across the street. Over it the whole line tumbled and hand clasps were broken. The teacher gathered the children again and piloted them to Hart's real estate office and got them in out of the storm. But in looking them over in the office she found that Percy Snart was missing. The teacher at once ran to Mr. Snart's store to see if the boy had gone there. He had not been seen and the alarm was at once given that he was lost in the blizzard. A few men rushed out calling and shouting the boy's name, but about that time he reached one of the office rooms on the east side of the street with ears and face badly frozen. He had held to the line until it fell over the snow bank and then became bewildered and could not find the others. He wandered about until he ran into a trench that had been cut through a drift to E. N. Mount's barn east of the street.

At the Needham school house in Anima township W. L. Holden was teacher. The pupils were Ada Needham, Alex. Truman and Ernest Vessey. School started that morning with but about one scuttle of coal on hand. About two o'clock in the afternoon the room became so cold that the teacher determined to take the children to the Needham residence, about 80 rods south. Fortunately the road had been well traveled and

the snow blew out of it so that they were enabled to follow it without difficulty.

Frank B. Phillips was the regular teacher at the Teasdale school house in the northeast part of Dale township. Business matters called him away for a couple of days and his mother took his place for the 11th and 12th. She spent the night of the 11th with her daughter, Mrs. B. B. Beadel, who resided on the Northeast quarter of section 1 of that township. On the morning of the 12th her little grandson, Jesse Beadel took her with a one-horse sled to the school house. A few moments after their arrival the storm began. They remained in the school house several hours waiting for the storm to abate. The horse, still hitched to the sleigh stood at the south end of the building, but the whirling snow was fast covering it. Pity for the poor horse prompted the boy and his grandmother to attempt to go to her home, three miles southeast, on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 19 in Alpena township. The road was little better than a path across the prairie and could not be followed. When about a mile from home they entered a corn field, where the horse fell in the deep snow. Jesse got out and unhitched the animal and assisted it to its feet, but he could do nothing to get the sled out of the snow. Walking was impossible and by this time they could not tell which way to go. The boy then kicked the snow away from the sled as much as possible and tipped it up so as to form a shelter from the wind and snow. He wrapped the robes about Mrs. Phillips so as to keep her as warm as possible and then crawled down beside her to wait. Darkness came on and still the storm raged. About daylight the next morning Jessie was able to see his uncle's house about half a mile away and he told his grandmother to remain under the sled while he went for help. As he rose from his cramped position he saw the horse a few rods away. His limbs were numb and he could scarcely stand, yet he made a brave effort and staggered along toward the house some distance before he succumbed to the intense cold. And there they found him a few hours later. Mrs. Phillips was rescued, but terribly chilled and badly frozen.

At the center school house in Viola township Mrs. Wm. Wagner was teaching. The children at school on the day of the blizzard, were Frank Jonker, Karl Kruse, George Kruse, Frank and Florence Wagner, Ferdinand, Anna and Celia Clodt. The teacher retained the whole school all night, and the next morning Louis Jonker took all of them to his residence for breakfast.

During the winter of the great storm Miss Anna Groub was teacher in the Groub school house in Marlar township. It was located about twenty rods southeast of her father's residence. The pupils in attendance on the 12th of January were Wm. James, Ira and May Grace, Allen and

Frank McLean, Ed and Glen Ketchem, Zacharia Groub and Arthur Colley. In the afternoon John Groub undertook to bring the teacher and scholars from the school house to the Groub residence because of lack of fuel at the school. He made several trips taking two or three members of the school each time. The last venture was with his brother and the two McLean boys. He kept the directions all right but got confused as to the distance. When he had gone what he thought was but little more than half way to the residence, his brother Zacaria ("Trix") saw the tracks of his sled where he had been sliding down a large snow drift near the house and from which the wind was blowing the snow. He called John's attention to the marks on the snow bank and insisted they were near the house. John thought the house was some ways off and was for going further. At that instant Anna, the teacher, opened the door and called. Trix was right. The house was but a few feet away and they were safe.

The Cady school in Anina township was taught that winter by Miss Sarah Fish. The pupils in attendance on January 12th were George and Jesse Martin, Jake and Lon Winegaarden, Dick, Chas. and Leo Lehmer, and Tillie, Galen, Will and Grace Shultz. All the pupils were kept at the school house until the next day.

At Crow Lake the school was held in the residence of Mrs. A. M. Allyn, her daughter Ellen being the teacher. The only children in the school Jan. 12th, were Frank and Joseph Dusek. They stayed at the Allyn house all night.

In Chery township M. A. Small was teaching in the southeast school. The pupils at school on the day of the storm were Sarah, Kate, Maggie, Anna and Joe Thomson, and Jesse Small. After the storm began Mr. Thornton became so worried about the children that he started out and went to the school house, half a mile from his residence, and warned the teacher to not let a child go home while the storm continued. He then went home and making up a package of provisions made another trip to the school.

Mrs. Rose Gregory was teaching during that winter in the Dale Center school. At the school on the 12th of January, 1888, were the teacher's three children, Bert, Laura and Francis; Amanda and Lillabelle Chapman; Mary, Dan and James Tracy; Rosa Youngs; Matie, Nellie and Robert Mercer. In the afternoon Mr. Mercer, who lived near the school house, went after his children and took them home, but the risk was so great that he refused to take the other pupils out into the storm. The teacher remained at the school house until the morning of the 13th.

The Kogle school in Franklin township was taught by Miss R. E. Havens, now Mrs. L. J. Grisinger of Lane. As soon as the storm struck

she took a number of scarfs, tied them together and made a line that would reach from the door of the school house to the shed in which the coal was kept and with the help of the larger boys brought enough coal into the school room to last until the next morning. No one left the school house until the blizzard was past.

John Francis, who was teaching in the Steichen district in Blaine township, remained at the school house all night with Chas. McCune, one of his pupils.

J. A. Ford stayed all night with his school at the Ford school house in Viola township. The pupils were Howard and Susan Phillips; Lillie Ford, and Mable Rhodes.

Miss Nellie White, who was employed in the Hawthorne district of Wessington Springs township, retained her pupils at the school house until Friday morning.

Miss Nettie Miles, who was teaching the Rock Valley school in Franklin township that winter boarded with David McDowall's family. On the morning of the 12th of January while at the breakfast table Mr. McD. told of some of the storms he had seen in Iowa, and then said to the teacher, "If any such storm comes on while you are teaching, don't let a child start for home." With her at the school house that night stayed Charles and Clarence Black; William McLean; May, Maggie, Nell, Will and Henry Shanley, and Gilbert, Margaret, Anna and Allen McDowall. The next morning at daylight Mr. McDowall went for them and had the whole school at his home for breakfast.

Mrs. J. W. Harden, during the winter of 1888 taught the largest school in Franklin township in what was then called the Larson school house. Many of her pupils, who stayed with her that night, are now grown and still living in Jerauld county. Among them were: Andrew, David and Jennie Reid; Wm. and Robt. Brownell; Oscar and Christ Lindebak; John Volke; Emma and Lizzie Forst; Henry and Christ Refvem; John, Angeline, Christ, and Anna Burg; Emma, Dora, Lydia, Henry, Martha and John Goll; Selma Newman.

N. E. Williams, now of Mattock, Iowa, gives the following account of his recollection of the time:

"The blizzard of 1888 was one of those convulsions of nature that can only occur when there is a certain combination of circumstances and conditions.

Those conditions are only present at rare intervals and such a storm may not occur again in a hundred years if ever, and on account of the thicker settlement of the county and the presence of groves and fences to serve as guides to the bewildered, such a storm would not at the present time be nearly so calamitous.

The winter of 1887—88 opened with unusual severity. All through

December and the early part of January the snow covered the ground deeply and the cold was steady and intense.

The weather being so cold and the roads so bad the settlers who lived long distances from town had remained at home until coal and provisions were nearly exhausted, so that when the morning of January 12th opened warm and balmy some one from nearly every home started for town to replenish their supplies. Stock that had been shut up in the stable for a long time were turned out to feed around the straw piles and to get a little needed exercise. Everything was in just the condition to make a sudden storm cause the greatest amount of loss and suffering possible.

At that time I was living on the old homestead in Anina township, the family consisting of my wife and one little daughter, about two years old, my brother Geo. O. Williams, and myself. My brother was teaching the Moore school in Anina township and I was teaching the Nesmith school over in the edge of Viola. We were short of provisions and someone had to go to town for more. So George concluded not to teach that day and hitching up the team to a home-made sled he started for the "Springs" taking me with him as far as the schoolhouse where I taught. Before leaving home I turned the cattle out into the yard, which contained a large straw pile, and which was surrounded by a good high fence.

It was somewhat foggy and the air was saturated with moisture, the sun showing dimly through the haze. On every hand we could see cattle wandering around the prairie enjoying the unusual warmth and teams going across the plains in the direction of Wessington Springs and Woonsocket.

At forenoon recess I was standing in front of the school house, surrounded by a group of the pupils and was just saying that I ought to dismiss school and go to Woonsocket for coal when a sudden whiff of cold air caused us all to turn and look toward the north, where we saw what appeared to be a huge cloud rolling over and over along the ground, blotting out the view of the nearby hills and covering everything in that direction as with a blanket. There was scarcely time to exclaim at the unusual appearance when the cloud struck us with awful violence and in an instant the warm and quiet day was changed into a howling pandemonium of ice and snow.

The moisture which filled the air was changed to particles of ice, and driven by a wind of tremendous velocity, it drifted in through every crack and crevice almost up to the stove which we kept red hot to drive away the fearful chill which accompanied the storm. The noise of the storm was so deafening that it was impossible to conduct classes, so we passed the day in such study as was possible under the circumstances. My

mind, meanwhile, being racked with anxiety as to what was happening to the family and stock, and filled with fear for those who were caught out on the prairie. I had heard of such storms lasting for three or four days and could not help worrying over our own fate if such should be the case this time, twenty of us shut up without provisions or sufficient fuel in a little shack on the prairie. It was evident that our safety lay in remaining where we were and peremptory orders were given that no one should leave the schoolhouse for any purpose, for the storm was so blinding, bewildering and suffocating that one could not face it for a moment and it was equally dangerous to go with the wind without any guide or landmark.

As night drew on and the children began to get hungry, there were tears on the part of the younger pupils and rebellion on the part of the older boys who, with the rashness of youth, proposed to go home in spite of everything but I would not allow them to attempt it and told them that they must stay there even if force had to be used to make them do it. In spite of this, however, two of the big boys started out when my back was turned and for a few minutes I was sick with anxiety, but they soon came in again, white and scared, and after that there was no trouble, all were glad enough to stay.

It soon became necessary to replenish the supply of coal. The coal house stood about thirty feet west of the school house. By creeping in the shelter of the west side of the house, then shutting my eyes and making a dash for it I was able to reach the coal house and after a number of such trips had enough coal to last until morning. While getting in the coal I first fully realized the awful smothering weight of the blizzard. The face was covered with ice in an instant, the eyes frozen shut and the breath taken away completely, while the fine particles of ice were driven into the clothing until, in a few moments, one was fairly cased in icy armor. There were electrical phenomena present also and we amused ourselves by putting the point of the poker to the stove and watching the shower of sparks leap out to meet it and by passing the hand over each others heads which would crackle and snap with electric energy.

After two o'clock the wind began to abate somewhat and shortly after that time Mr. Frank Voge, who had children in the school, appeared laden with good things to eat for us all. He had taken considerable risk, but traveling with the storm was able to reach us in safety. All through the early part of the night we could hear the low moaning bellowing of Dr. Nesmith's cattle which were caught in the storm while near the school house and stood there slowly freezing through the night and when morning dawned they still stood there, some still alive, some dead on their feet, kept from falling by the snow, which had packed around them to

the knees and was almost as hard as ice. With the first streak of dawn, by which time the blizzard proper was over, though a cutting wind still blew from the N. W., I could stand it no longer and started for home. I shall never forget the sensation which overpowered me when I got to the top of the ridge which divides Hawkeye Valley from the pairie and saw the smoke rising from the chimneys at H. C. Stephens', J. A. Swan's and S. S. Moore's, while there were no signs of life at the Williams home.

I pictured my wife frozen to death while trying to save the cattle, the baby dead in the house and the home desolate. But my fears were groundless. The little girl was snugly wrapped in bed and the good wife was vainly trying to shovel away the snow from the barn door in order to get in a couple of steers which had saved their lives by getting in the lee of the house as they drifted away with the storm. I first got my half frozen wife into the house, started a good fire and then turned my attention to saving the stock and succeeded in saving three out of eleven head which at that time was all we had. It seems that the snow had drifted over the barnyard fence and packed so hard that the cattle could walk over it and the silly brutes, instead of seeking the shelter of the straw pile, had walked over the fence and drifted away with the storm. The cattle that were saved were a strange sight with their bodies completely cased in ice, their heads, masses of ice as large as bushel baskets from the congealed breath and, unable to sustain the weight, resting on the ground. Hammering off the ice with a club and pushing them around to restore the circulation it was possible after a time to get them in the barn. Their ears and tails were frozen and afterward dropped off. I think there were more bob-tailed and crop eared cattle in Jerauld county after the blizzard than ever before or since.

My wife had passed the night in great anxiety and suspense. She knew the cattle were perishing and feared that I had left the school house and attempted to get home. Once she started out to try to save the cattle, but after going a few steps realized that it was a desperate venture and the thought of what would become of the little girl if she were lost restrained her and caused her to return to the house. To this she undoubtedly owes her life. All night long she kept up as much fire as the short supply of coal would permit and had the lamp burning in the window to guide me in case I had tried to reach home.

Toward noon Bro. George appeared with the team and relieved our great anxiety. It seems that he got to the "Springs" just as the blizzard struck and was safely housed through it all. Our personal losses were small, but in the aggregate the losses were immense. Dead cattle were

lying around the prairies all over South Dakota and here and there human beings were frozen to death or maimed for life.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis were the only ones who lost their lives in our neighborhood. They perished near their home, a short distance east of the school house, where the children and myself spent the night. Some men made considerable journeys safely in the height of the storm.

Mr. John Grant went from the "Springs" to his home, a mile south, and arrived all right. With the wind in one's back and a cool head it was possible. To face the wind was out of the question. Genial Mike Barr, afterward killed by lightning, started from Judge Converse's for home, became bewildered, and finding a straw pile, crawled into it for shelter. In the middle of the pile he found a huge hog that had taken refuge there. The warmth of its body kept Mike from freezing and thereafter it was never safe to say a word against swine in his presence.

There was a cruel aftermath to the blizzard, funerals, surgical operations, cripples, fingers with first joints gone, ears without rims, and some like poor Will Moss, who spent the night on the prairie in the shelter of his cutter, and supposed that he had escaped without damage, afterward died of diseases caused by the exposure.

Many incidents might be mentioned but space forbids, I write only of personal experiences and happenings in the home neighborhood. The storm, however, was not confined to South Dakota alone. It swept over northwestern Iowa with equal violence. Three persons lost their lives in the vicinity of Sheldon, where we now reside. Such a calamity is no more likely to occur in South Dakota than in any other prairie state, but those who passed through it devoutly hope that such may not happen again any time or anywhere.

Mrs. Anna Tryon remained all night with her school in the Fauston school house in Pleasant township.

Chapter 24.

The narrow escapes of individuals in the county, if told with fulness of detail, would fill a volume. I have gathered a few that can be verified, but many experiences, equally hazardous must necessarily remain untold.

In the winter of 1888 E. S. Waterbury was residing on his homestead, the NE of 28 in Crow township. On the morning of the 12th of January he drove to the village, of Waterbury, taking his children, Minnie and Elmer, to the public school. After the storm set in Mr. Waterbury took

the two children and Rasmus Nelson and started for home. Mrs. Waterbury was in poor health and at the homestead alone. Soon after starting the team got off the crack and plunged into a snow drift. The two boys Elmer and Rasmus then went ahead of the horses, pulled them back to the road which was well beaten, and joining hands were able to follow the track until they ran against the windmill near the house. They had led the team nearly a mile.

Mr. Timothy Tryon, who then lived on the S. E. of 26 in Pleasant township, was on his way to the home of C. S. Barber on the NW of 35, when the storm came on. He turned about and attempted to go back home but was lost and wandered about for several hours. By the greatest good luck he chanced to run against Z. S. Moulton's house in Crow Lake township and was rescued, but badly chilled.

Isaac Byam, who lived on the NE of 24 in Pleasant township, was at his well watering the cattle when the storm struck. He drove the animals into shelter and then went to the house. In the afternoon the coal pile was so covered with snow that he could not find it, so he went to the granary and brought a sack of corn. He made a second trip, but missed the granary and came back. He tried again and when he reached the place where he expected to find the building he could see nothing of it. He stood for several minutes trying to see the granary, which he knew could not be far from him. A lull in the wind, no longer than a flash, gave him a glimpse of a dark object. He reached his hand toward it and touched the side of the granary. By that time the snow had sifted into the building through some nail holes and small cracks sufficiently to block the door. He then opened the window and climbed in that way. He filled the sack with corn and again made his way to the house, a distance of about twenty rods.

In Viola township August Schuttpelz and W. P. Shulz were at work building a small shanty. They had boarded up one side of it when the blizzard came. They took shelter behind the side of the shanty. In a few moments the snow began piling in a drift about them. One of them took a scoop shovel they had brought with them and shoveled it away. The snow kept piling about them and they continued to throw it back, taking turns with the shovel. So all day and all night they fought against being buried alive in a snow bank. They were badly chilled but came out of it safe and sound.

On the NW of 13 in Franklin township lived Frank Kutil, on land he had purchased from Joseph Sucha. Sucha was at Kutil's house when the storm came. Like many other early settlers, Kutil was economizing, that winter, by burning hay, instead of coal. The stack was about twenty rods northeast of the house. Several times that day Kutil and Sucha together went to the stack for fuel, taking a rope with which to tie the

hay into a bundle. After the bundle was formed it required the united strength of both to hold it. When they thought they were near the house they would stop and kneel down until they caught a glimpse of the peak of the roof and then go on. It was perilous work, but there was no other way.

In Chery township Mr. M. A. Scheafer was in his stable when the blizzard came on. He tried several times to make his way, against the storm, but each time gave it up and returned to the stable, where he was compelled to remain until the storm was over.

At Wessington Springs T. L. Blank, who was then publishing the Wessington Springs Herald left his printing office, located near where the Oliver hotel now stands, and made his way along the foothills to his residence, a mile northwest of town, on one of the highest points.

On the night of the blizzard J. H. Woodburn, who was then boarding at Price's hotel, then known as the "Woodburn House" stepped to the door to look out, when he heard some one who was lost in the storm, calling for help. Accompanied by J. W. Barnum he ran across the street in the direction of the voice. They found L. J. Farnsworth a few feet south of Tarbell's hotel barn nearly crazed with fear. Woodburn caught him by the coat and dragged him to the barn door and pushed him inside. As he opened the door to let Farnsworth in, the light from the lantern that hung in the stable flashed upon some hideous looking objects just outside the door. Woodburn knew they were animals of some sort and calling to Barnum they drove them inside. It proved to be three oxen that had wandered from the residence of Mr. Coffee in the north part of town. The animals were completely covered with snow and nearly suffocated with the great balls of ice that had formed over their nostrils.

August Bachmore's residence in Crow Lake township was on section ten. A few moments before the storm the sheep, about a hundred of them, were turned out of the stable. The cattle shed was built into the side hill, with a hole in the roof for convenience in getting hay to the animals. The cattle were in the stable, but all efforts to get the sheep into shelter failed and they had to be left outside, where most of them were found after the storm suffocated with the snow and ice that had formed over their noses. While the men were in the cattle stable making everything as comfortable as possible for the inmates, Frank Sailer came tumbling through the hole in the roof. He had been caught by the storm while going home from Crow Lake and getting lost fate had guided his steps to the hole in the roof of Bachmore's shed.

Vaurin Dusek then lived where he does now, on the north bank of Crow Lake, Crow Lake township. He had taken his ax to the lake to cut holes in the ice to water the cattle, while his daughter, Mary, now

Mrs. Petrole, drove them from the barn. He had cut but one hole when he became enveloped in the whirling mass of wind and snow. He immediately left the lake and went to meet his daughter, while she left the cattle and ran in search for her father. As luck would have it they bumped against each other about half way between the barn and the lake. Together they made their way from one object to another until they reached the house. The cattle, 18 in number, all crossed to the south shore of the lake and smothered in the storm.

C. S. Marvin lived on the NW of 18 in Logan township. He and his boy were driving his cattle to the residence of A. S. Fordham, on section 17, for water, when they were caught by the storm. The wind and snow hid the cattle from sight, and after riding about in a vain endeavor to round them up they attempted to go back home. That was found to be impossible and they turned toward Fordham's again. As good fortune would have it they reached the barn where Mr. Marvin left the boy and groped his way to the house. Mr. Fordham at once went to the barn and took care of the animals. He then told the boy to take hold of his coat tails and taking the direction as nearly as he could judge started for the house. They were passing the house when they tumbled over a snow bank and rolled together down against the building and were safe.

On the NE of 32 in Logan township a son of Joseph Byers was watering the cattle at a pond near the barn, when the storm came. He attempted to drive the cattle to the barn against the wind. Being unable to do so he went to the house and told his father. Mr. Byers started at once to take care of the animals. The neighbors found him the next day about four miles south in Brule county, frozen to death beside a hay stack, where he had tried to find shelter.

Chas. Kugler, in the western part of Media township, was out with his team of oxen and hay rack getting a load of straw from a stack about forty rods from his house. He unhitched the team from the wagon and tried to get back to the buildings, but did not succeed. They found his frozen body with his team, near the residence of J. T. Ferguson in the northwest part of Anina township, the following Sunday afternoon.

After the storm a boy was found frozen to death near the north end of Long Lake in Harmony township. He had wandered in the storm from a few miles south of Miller, in Hand county, to where he dropped, overcome by the cold and exhaustion.

G. R. Bateman and William Taylor were on the way to Woonsocket and wandered on the prairie several hours, finally getting in at the Hawthorne residence near the Firesteel creek.

A man named James Hutchinson tried to go from his house to the barn, but becoming confused he sat down in a snow bank and as he phrased it, "Hollered like a loon," until his wife, thinking she heard him call, went to the door and answered. He followed toward the sound of her voice and reached the house.

Andrew Berg, living in Franklin township, tried to get a pail of water from his well during the storm, but wandered five miles, returning home the next day.

Mr. William Davis, an elderly gentleman living in Viola township, started just before the storm to go southwest across a quarter section to the residence of J. N. Smith. He was lost near the barn and perished but a short distance from home. Mrs. Davis was found a few steps from the house almost dead. She died a few minutes after being taken in.

Mr. Ezra Voorhees, of Media township, lived on the NE quarter of 35. He was about three quarters of a mile south of his house with Elmer Carpenter, when they were caught in the storm. They immediately started for Mr. V.'s residence. His dog acted as guide. The intelligent animal would dash off into the storm and immediately return, as if to see if the men were following. This he continued until they reached the house.

Chapter 25.

THE MAIL CARRIERS.

Thursday, the 12th day of January, 1888, was strenuous for the stage drivers of Jerauld county, all but two of whom were in the employ of G. N. Price. His drivers were A. G. Eberhart on the Woonsocket line; Rolla Cady on the Miller line; William Moss on the Belford line, and also on the Crow Lake line; Sam Wilson on the line from Crow Lake to White Lake with Jehial Barnum as special, or supply, but usually employed about the barn at Wessington Springs.

The line from Wessington Springs to Waterbury was driven by T. J. Pressey, and the line from Waterbury to Kimball by Chas. Gingery, who was carrying the mail for A. J. Brown, the contractor.

Mr. Pressey had been making the trips between Wessington Springs and Waterbury, during the week preceeding the 12th of January, by going but one way each day. On Wednesday he made the trip from Waterbury to Wessington Springs, and on Thursday morning started back. He was near the residence of I. S. Binford, when he encountered the

storm, and was enabled to get in without mishap and remained there until it was over.

The route driven by Charles Gingery took him from the village of Waterbury to Gann Valley, thence to Lyonville and from there to Kimball. He left Waterbury on Thursday morning about 7 o'clock accompanied by Miss Addie Quim as a passenger to Kimball on the way to her old home in Illinois. They had passed Gann Valley, in Buffalo county and were nearing Lyonville, Brule county, when the soft, balmy air in which they had been riding was "in the twinkling of an eye" changed to a mass of blinding snow. The horses became unmanageable and left the road. After a protracted effort to get on Gingery loosed the horses from the sled, a box-like concern, wrapped his passenger in the robes and bidding her sit down he tipped the vehicle over so as to protect her from the storm as much as possible and then getting in beside her waited for the end. The day and night were passed in that uncomfortable position. When daylight came Friday morning he saw a house about a mile away and though badly frozen, he made his way to it for help. They were both taken to Kimball, where the lady died from the effects of her exposure, Gingery, though a cripple for life lived until November, 1908, when he died in Ohio.

Rolla Cady left Wessington Springs on the Miller line Wednesday morning, and reached the north end of the route that night. Thursday, at the usual hour, he started on the return trip and had driven five or six miles, when the blizzard came upon him. In telling the story afterwards he said he knew of no pleasanter place to stay during a severe storm than at Green's ranch where there were several most agreeable young ladies. That ranch was five miles ahead and he determined to try for it. He succeeded and stayed there until Saturday morning when he continued his journey home, arriving that evening in good condition.

The mail line between Wessington Springs and Woonsocket was daily. Al Eberhart left Woonsocket Thursday morning and had reached the farm of Mr. Boje about three miles west of the county line when he was forced to seek shelter. He stayed with the farmer until Friday morning and then made the balance of the trip to Wessington Springs, arriving at noon.

Sam Wilson, at Crow Lake, went to the barn as usual on Thursday morning and fed and cared for his team and then went to the post office and told the postmaster he would not go on the White Lake drive that day because there was going to be a bad storm. No amount of ridicule or urging would induce him to start. He remained at Crow Lake until the storm had passed.

The Belford line was a semi-weekly, and supplied Sullivan, Parsons and Belford postoffices. The Sullivan office was at the residence of W. W. Goodwin on the NE of 32 in Wessington Springs township and Parsons was on the — of — with a gentleman named Billings as postmaster. Will Moss had passed Parsons postoffice when he saw the storm coming. He whipped up the team in an effort to reach a farm house a short distance ahead. The family at the house saw him coming and witnessed the race until Moss became enveloped in the storm. Long after the blizzard struck the house members of the family stood by the door and called, but no response could they get. Out on the prairie Moss was struggling to get his team through the deep snow and the suffocating storm, but the effort was useless. He stopped and unhitched the ponies from the sled and wrapping himself in the robes and blankets, tipped it over him and there he remained until the next morning, not much the worse for his experience. He returned to Wessington Springs Monday, leaving one of the ponies frozen to death near where he had spent the night on the prairie.

A singular experience befell Howard Pope, who, then a boy of but 14 years, was driving a mail line from Kimball, in Brule county to Castalia in Charles Mix county. While the event about to be related occurred outside of Jerauld county, yet I tell it because Mr. Pope has been so long identified with life in this community. Probably no man in the state has carried mails by stage as many miles as Howard Pope. All told he has driven mail stage in Jerauld and near-by counties 150,800 miles—enough to have encircled the globe over six times.

On the morning of the 12th of January, 1888, Howard, wrapped in a long fur coat with a very high collar, and otherwise dressed for winter weather, left Kimball postoffice about 9 o'clock, and had driven about six miles. He was near the residence of a farmer named Patteen. When the storm began, the team left the beaten track and were soon floundering in a snow drift. Howard left the sleigh and went around the horses unhitching the tugs. In trying to get back to the sleigh he became separated from the team and after that could find neither the animals nor the sled. He wandered about for some time until he came to a post in a wire fence. His long coat prevented his getting through the fence, so he attempted to crawl under it. While under the fence he was protected from the wind and pulling his coat collar up about his head he lay still to rest and get his breath. He was so warm and comfortable down there in the snow, wrapped in his great coat, which covered him completely, from head to foot, that he stayed longer than was his intention when he stopped. His next sensation was of a pressure pressing upon him. He struggled and finally threw off the weight. He rose to his feet.

The wind had stopped blowing but the air was intensely cold. He saw his sleigh near by and close to it the horses, one of them frozen to death. By the position of the sun he knew it was early morning, and that he had lain about eighteen hours asleep under that wire fence. He went to Mr. Patteen's house and told his story. The farmer would not believe it possible until he had been to the fence and examined the hole in the snow. Howard was not even chilled.

Such is the story of the blizzard, the one great storm of thirty years.

Efforts were made in different parts of the county to assist in a financial way, both Addie Knieriem and Mr. Chas. Gingery. Blank & Blank, then publishers of the Wessington Springs Herald, inaugurated a move to provide a fund for Miss Knieriem. A benefit social was announced to be held at the court house in Wessington Springs on the 22nd of March. A committee was appointed in each township to sell tickets. The result was \$200, besides an annuity of \$600 a year donated by a philanthropist of Brooklyn, N. Y., through the influence of Dr. A. M. Mathias. Other entertainments of like character were held in various parts of the county; one at C. R. Nelson's in Anina township raising \$11.

For Chas. Gingery a social in Harmony township netted \$15 and one at Scofields, in Marlar township \$30. At the residence of B. G. Cummings, in Media \$37.50 was raised, \$7.50 of which was sent by people of Franklin township.

In the forepart of March Mr. Cady resigned his position as driver on the Miller route and J. W. Barnum took his place.

Chapter 26.

On January 2nd, 1888, John Grant took the oath of office as county commissioner, and the new board organized with O. A. Knudtson as chairman.

In June another move was made in the county to increase the board of commissioners to five members, but failed.

At the July session of the board in 1888 a full report of receipts and expenses for the preceding year was made. From it the statement is made that the total expense of caring for the poor of the county during that year was but \$179.07. Total receipts, \$31,061.12; total expenditure \$26,474.28. The entire debt of the county at that time was \$15,842.07. In that statement no account was taken of uncollected taxes.

On the 5th day of July, 1888, T. H. Null resigned his office of district

attorney, and a few weeks later moved to Huron, where he had formed a law partnership. On the 10th of July the board appointed A. Converse to the position made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Null.

The county tax levy made by the county board in 1888 was: County fund, 6 mills; road, 1 mill; bridge, 1 mill; sinking fund, 4 mills. The territorial tax levy was: General revenue, 3 and one-tenth mills; bond interest, four-tenths mills; stock indemnity, seven-tenths; the latter to be levied only on cattle, mules and horses.

In calling the election of 1888 the county commissioners bounded the precincts the same as at the February school election in 1884.

The legislature of 1884 had provided for the election of county superintendents in June with a view of taking the office out of the usual political scramble. On the 19th of June, 1888, I. S. Binford was re-elected, receiving 365 of the 366 votes cast at that election. During all the time he continued in office Mr. Binford kept alive the interest in township institute work among the teachers. The third annual county institute was held Nov. 12 to 16, 1888, with C. J. Pickhart as conductor and S. F. Huntley, assistant. At that institute the Jerauld County Teachers' Reading Circle was organized with Fred Luke as manager.

On February 25th, 1888, the Agricultural Society had a meeting, at which C. W. Hill was elected president; R. Vanderveen, vicepresident; J. W. Thomas, secretary; and B. J. Cummings, treasurer. The fair that year was held on the grounds north of Wessington Springs, and though not a success financially, yet the exhibits, in quality, were the best that had been made.

The crop yield in that year, considering the methods of farming, were good. The following totals compiled by John F. Wicks, from the assessor's reports, while at work, at that time in the county clerk's office, show the amounts of the various farm products.

	Amount.	Leading township.
Corn	204,982,	Viola.
Wheat	215,416	Viola.
Barley	25,915	Viola.
Potatoes	14,652	Viola.
Butter (lbs.)	99,270	Viola.
Oats	205,581	Alpena.
Rye	10,048	Marlar.
Flax	34,569	Pleasant.
Cheese (lbs.)	4,585	Wessington Springs.
Tame hay (tons)	2,003	
Wild hay (tons)	20,180	
Poultry	\$7,694	

But for the high rates of interest that many of the settlers were still paying, the county would have been placed in a prosperous condition.

During the year 1888 a railroad project from Huron southwest was talked of, and another from Pierre southeast. Both cities were candidates for capital of the coming state.

Some changes were made this year in the management of the newspapers in the county. The firm of Blank & Blank leased the Herald to W. N. Coffee, who assumed control of the paper May 4th, but only continued in charge until the last issue in June.

On the 1st of April, N. J. Dunham retired from the Journal at Alpena and Lacy F. Shafer took the editorial management, under a lease from D. F. Royer, but purchased the paper in the second week in October.

The farmers' alliance, feeling the need of a newspaper in its work in the county, leased of B. B. Blosser one column of the True Republican and elected O. J. Marshall its editor. Mr. Marshall began furnishing "copy" for the printer on the 20th of March, and during the next year continued to make it one of the most influential columns published in the county.

During the fall campaign Guy McGlashan published a paper called The Independent, at Crow Lake, but suspended the publication about January 15th, 1889.

In 1888 the first bounty for growing trees received by any citizen of Jerauld county was paid by the territorial treasurer to Mr. L. G. Wilson, for trees grown by him on his pre-emption claim in Viola township.

The Fourth of July celebrations in the county in 1888 were at Alpena and Crow Lake, but as yet I have been unable to get the particulars of either.

During the winter of 1888-89 a debating society was organized at the Grieve school house in Harmony township and has been continued ever since, during the winter months.

In September of 1888 Mr. G. G. Livermore, of Fairmount, Minn., brought to Jerauld county seven car loads of sheep which he leased to settlers in Chery and Dale townships on shares. This was the beginning of a business that paid the owner of the sheep a nice profit and enabled many of the farmers to tide over the hard times of a few years later.

All through the summer and fall of 1887 the farmers of Alpena and the country tributary to that station had been discussing the subject of building a farmers elevator there. Application was made to the railway company for a site for the building, but was met with a flat refusal. By the spring of 1888 the farmers had become determined in the matter and again brought it to the attention of the company. This time a meeting was arranged for between Messrs. May, Worrall and Teasdale on the

part of the farmers and a representative of the railroad, about the first of April. The result of this meeting was so encouraging that a call was issued for those interested to come together at the depot in Alpena on April 12th to discuss the matter more fully. Another meeting was held on the 15th of April and officers of a temporary organization were elected as follows: Pres., G. J. Royer; Vice Pres., O. G. Woodruff; Secretary, John Teasdale; Treas., C. D. Worrall. On June 30th the plans had been so far promoted that a meeting was held at the Alpena school house to adopt by-laws of a corporation and elect officers, a charter, dated June 12th, 1888, having been already obtained. The work of selling stock and building the elevator was now pushed as rapidly as possible and by the beginning of the threshing season the company was ready to receive grain, John Teasdale being the buyer.

In the autumn of 1888, L. N. Loomis, who was about to retire from the office of register of deeds, established The Bank of Alpena. He continued as sole proprietor of the institution until December 15th, 1891, when he took D. F. Royer and H. J. Wallace into the bank with him and they incorporated it with a capital of \$6,000, Mr. Loomis still being the manager. In 1902 the building now occupied by the bank was erected, and in January, 1903, the bank and building were sold to O. L. Branson, D. T. Gilman and J. R. Milliken, the latter being the resident manager. Under this management the bank continued until January 1st, 1907, when it passed into the hands of the present owners, who have increased its capital to \$12,000, with \$3,000 surplus.

After the dedication of the I. O. O. F. Hall on July 4th, 1888, Roth Bros. opened a stock of general merchandise in the lower room, moving from the store room previously occupied by them on the opposite side of the street. They continued the business until 1891, when they sold to D. S. and M. A. Manwaring. The present owner, Mr. A. F. Smith, bought the stock and business from Manwaring Bros. in 1897.

Among the pioneers of the county who died in 1888 were J. O. Gray, county assessor, on Nov. 1st, and L. H. Tarbell, proprietor of the Wessington Springs Hotel, on March 22nd. After the death of Mr. Tarbell the hotel was conducted by Miss Lina A. French until the appointment of R. S. Vessey as administrator of the Tarbell estate.

The first meat market in Wessington Springs was opened by Ed. Hinchliff, of Woonsocket, on Monday, April 9th, 1888, but the enterprise was not long lived.

On May 10th, 1888, John Grant made the first final homestead proof on seven year residence that was made in the county. The land was the SE of 19 in Wessington Springs township.

Mrs. Julius Smith opened a millinery stock May 23rd, in a building owned by T. H. Null west of Morse & La Pont's hardware store, but it also was of short duration.

The closing exercises of the first year of the Seminary occurred on the afternoon of June 14th, 1888. The students who had a part in these exercises were Dale Wallace, Maude Spears, Cora Sickler, Walter Bateman, Gertie Anderson, Walter Mathias, Matie Mercer, F. E. Gaffin, Chas. Ford, Nellie Vessey, Effie Crow, Kara Snart, A. C. Thompson, Lena Crow, John Bremner, James Osborne and Lulu Smart.

The first harness shop in Wessington Springs was started by R. E. Ketchum in June, 1888. Another shop was opened soon after by C. N. Hall and in the following winter Mr. Ketchum moved his work to his home on Sec. 31 in Marlar township.

December 5th, 1888. Some one threw a burning cigar stub into the street. A strong northwest wind picked it up and tumbled it into a pile of street refuse that had accumulated under the platform in front of Albert & Vessey's store.

By midnight all the town was asleep—all but John R. Francis, who, as was his custom, sat in the office of the Tarbell hotel reading by the light of a kerosene lamp. About 2 o'clock he chanced to glance out of the window and saw a small jet of flame leap up under the store front. A cup of water would have extinguished it. He sprang to the water pail that usually stood on the wash stand in the hotel office. It was empty. He shouted "fire" and ran to the kitchen to get a pail of water from there. That pail was empty. He took it and ran to the east door of the kitchen to get water from the barrels that usually stood just outside in a wagon. The door was locked and the key gone. He ran out through the office and around to the wagon, still shouting "fire! fire!" The barrels were empty. Not a drop of water nearer than the creek. He ran to that, all the time sounding the alarm. As he passed the fire a pail full of water would have put it out. But the wind was fanning it and scattering the sparks. By the time he returned from the stream a crowd was gathering, but the flames were beyond control. In an hour the store was in ashes, the Tarbell hotel was in ruins with its stables and sheds, together with Hackett's real estate office and the oil-shed belonging to the hardware store. There was no snow on the ground and a prairie fire went racing off southeast before the wind. The hotel was never rebuilt. The mercantile firm went into the Stephens' building and was soon doing business again.

Chapter 27.

But little change was made in the mail service of the county during the year. Sept. 1st the Templeton post office in Media was discontinued and in the same month Ada P. O. was established at the residence of A. Converse in Anina township. This office was named in honor of Miss Ada Needham, youngest daughter of Don C. Needham and a niece of the postmaster.

In February, 1888, the P. O. department at Washington, on its own motion changed the name of the Lyndale office to Fauston, because it was so often mistaken for Tyndale in Bon Homme county.

The first political county convention in 1888 was held at Wessington Springs by the Democrats on the 25th day of April, with John R. Francis as chairman and J. R. Dalton, of Blaine township, secretary. It was held for the purpose of selecting delegates to the Democratic territorial convention at Watertown to elect delegates to the national convention. The delegates selected were Pat McDonald, J. R. Dalton, J. J. Steiner and J. R. Francis. This was a mass convention.

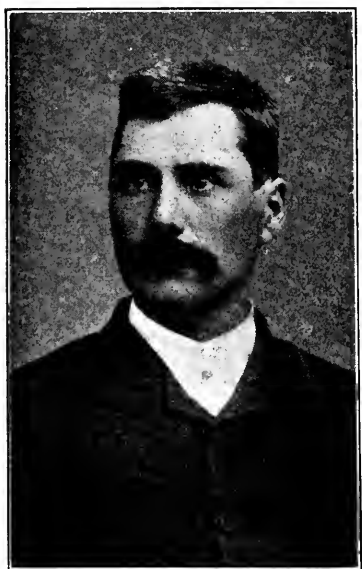
The Republican convention for the same purpose was held at Wessington Springs, May 12th, with C. E. Thayer, chairman and F. B. Phillips, secretary. The delegates chosen at this meeting were L. F. Schaefer, B. B. Blosser, W. T. Coffee and O. P. Hull, all newspaper men, supposed to be provided with railroad passes, according to the custom of those days. This, also, was a mass convention.

The "line-up" for the battle in the county began with the meeting of the Republican county central committee at Wessington Springs on June 23rd, 1888. At that meeting a mass convention was called for July 14th to elect delegates to the territorial convention at Watertown, Aug. 22nd, to nominate a delegate to congress. The committee at the same meeting issued a call for the regular county convention to be held Sept. 29th, at Wessington Springs, and recommending a call of the township caucuses for Saturday, Sept. 22.

In July the Democrats held their congressional convention at Jamestown, at which J. W. Harden, of Jerauld county, was nominated for congress.

At the Republican convention at Watertown George Matthews, of Brookings, was nominated for congress.

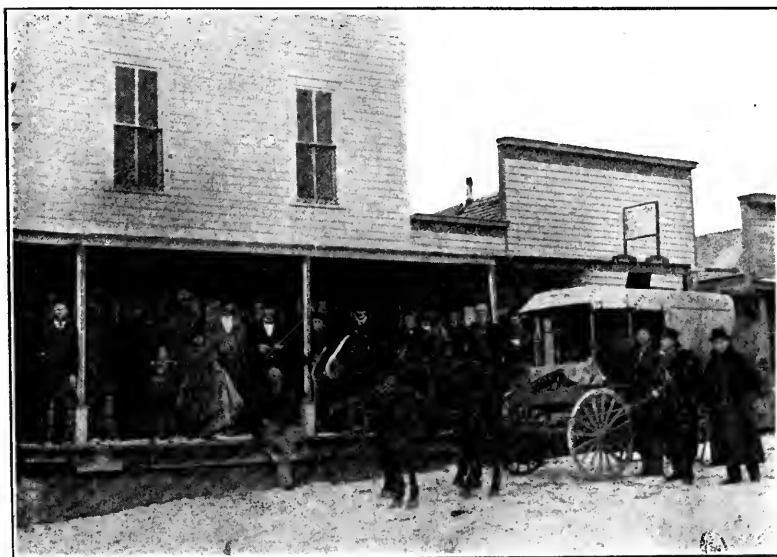
The call for township caucuses was formally issued Sept. 7th, with the recommendation that all caucuses be held from the hour 2 p. m. to 4 p. m. and be conducted like general elections, the township committee-men to act as judges. This method of holding caucuses was adopted



H. J. Wallace.



J. W. Harden.



Wessington Springs Stage Coach starting for Woonsocket.

and continued to be the practice in Jerauld county until the adoption of the "honest causes" law in 1906.

Those who proposed this method thought its absolute fairness would be a safeguard against the feeling of dissatisfaction that had in former years, followed each Republican county nominating convention. It was found, however, that shrewd politicians will manipulate any convention and that disappointed candidates will not be satisfied with the results.

The county convention met on the day appointed in the call, and John Teasdale, of Dale township, was made chairman, with E. S. Waterbury, of Crow township for secretary. The convention nominated D. F. Royer, of Alpena, for councilman, and gave him the privilege of selecting the delegates to the district legislative convention, which had been called to meet at Alpena on October 2nd. The ticket placed in nomination was as follows.

Register of Deeds—J. M. Wheeler, of Blaine.

Treasurer—H. J. Wallace, of Chery.

Sheriff—Joseph O'Brien, of Crow Lake.

Dist. Attorney—C. V. Martin, of Crow.

Probate Judge—A. Gunderson, of Wessington Springs.

Assessor—C. S. Richardson, of Harmony.

Surveyor—J. M. Corbin, of Marlar.

Croner—A. M. Mathias, of Wessington Springs.

Justices and constables were also nominated.

A county central committee was named as follows: J. R. Milliken, chairman, H. A. Miller, H. A. Peirce, S. S. Vrooman, R. S. Vessey, S. H. Melcher, Fred Luker. At the conclusion of the other business Royer announced the names of the delegates to the legislative convention, as follows: J. R. Millikin, O. G. Woodruff, R. S. Vessey, S. H. Melcher and H. A. Peirce.

At the Alpena convention Oct. 2nd, there were three candidates for territorial councilman from this district, Lowry, of Beadle county, Price of Sanborn, and Royer of Jerauld. Twenty-six ballots were taken before any candidate received a majority. Then one of the Jerauld county delegates voted for Lowry and he was nominated. The convention then named Royer and Price for assemblymen by acclamation.

Two days later, Oct. 4th, the Democratic legislative convention was held at Alpena. Mr. Davis, of Beadle county was named for the territorial council, and Frank Anderson, of Sanborn county, and A. Converse, of Jerauld county, for the assembly.

The Democratic county committee met at Wessington Springs on Oct. 2nd and called a delegate convention for that party, to be held on Oct. 13th. The convention met at the time appointed and was called to order

by Jefferson Sickler, committee chairman. Twenty-eight delegates were in attendance. John Chapman, of Wessington Springs, was made chairman. A full ticket was nominated, although a part of the Republican ticket was indorsed. It was as follows:

Register of Deeds—F. W. Whitney, of Alpena.

Treasurer—H. J. Wallace, Republican, indorsed.

Sheriff—Pat McDonald, of Alpena.

Dist. Attorney—A. Converse, of Anina.

Probate Judge—J. R. Francis, of Wessington Springs.

Assessor—Isaac Byam, of Pleasant.

Surveyor—B. R. Shimp, of Pleasant.

Coroner—John Steiner, of Blaine.

Justices and constables were also named.

For the first time the Democratic party organized and prepared for hard work. They felt sure of the support of that part of the Republicans who had been defeated at previous elections and especially of those who remembered the defeat of Mr. Converse for commissioner the year before. These dissatisfied Republicans now saw an opportunity to "get even" with those who had controlled the party since its organization, and accordingly a mass convention was held on Oct. 24th. A new ticket made up of Republicans and Democrats was put in the field as follows:

Register of Deeds—F. W. Whitney.

Treasurer—H. J. Wallace.

Sheriff—J. M. Spears.

Dist. Attorney—A. Converse.

Probate Judge—M. C. Ayers, of Wessington Springs.

Territorial Council—Mr. Lowry.

Territorial Assembly—Anderson and Price.

In the first commissioner district the Republicans nominated R. J. Eastman, of Alpena, and the Democrats, Knute S. Starkey, of Franklin.

The young voters of this, and future generations, will hardly credit the story of how their fathers carried elections. The method of holding caucuses adopted in Jerauld county in 1888 was a great improvement over prior methods. In former years a candidate would get enough of his supporters together to hold a caucus, and be prompt at the time and place mentioned in the "call." If an opposing candidate for the party nomination was present with his supporters, it then became a matter of majority, or possibly of parliamentary tactics. If the opposition was a few minutes late in reaching the place of holding the caucus, they were liable to find all the work done, the delegates elected and the caucus adjourned. The writer has known instances where the whole work of "expressing the will of the people," in a populous precinct was done by a

half-dozen men in three minutes. So the plan of holding the caucus open for two hours as adopted in 1888 was looked upon with much favor. But in all other respects the campaign was in accordance with "time honored customs."

During the last two weeks of the campaign business was almost at a stand-still. Every man was a politician. Day and night the contest raged. The farmer was called from his bed at midnight for a few hurried words and the messenger sped on in the darkness, to be followed by other messengers from the opposition before morning. Tickets were printed with a party name at the head but possibly containing the names of all the opposing candidates. In many instances tickets with "stickers" pasted on were distributed by men stationed at the polls for that purpose. The "sticker" was a narrow strip of gummed paper upon which was printed the name of a candidate. These strips were intended to be put on the tickets of the opposite party over the name of the opposing candidates. During the two weeks before the election the newspapers of the county advertised "stickers for sale at reasonable prices." Heated political discussions, in which the matter in dispute, was the merits of a party or a candidate were engaged in at the polling places and participated in by the judges of election and as many of the bystanders as cared to take a part.

The election occurred on the 6th day of November and the Republicans sustained a defeat from which they did not recover for several years.

The ticket elected was as follows:

Register of Deeds—F. W. Whitney.

Treasurer—H. J. Wallace.

Dist. Attorney—A. Converse.

Sheriff—Pat McDonald.

Assessor—C. S. Richardson.

Probate Judge—J. R. Francis.

Surveyor—J. M. Corbin.

Coroner—A. M. Mathias.

Commissioner—R. J. Eastman.

The Republicans elected the Justices of the peace and constables, and the legislative ticket.

The last notable event of 1888 was a spirited game of base ball at Wessington Springs on Xmas Day.

Meanwhile the little band of temperance workers in the county kept a watchful eye upon political affairs and prepared for the statehood campaign that everybody knew would soon come.

The Sunday school convention for the county was held on the 14th and 15th of May.

August 3rd a W. C. T. U. society was organized at Alpena with Mrs. J. R. Milliken, Mrs. R. Davenport, Mrs. F. W. Whitney, Mrs. Wm. Arne, Mrs. C. D. Worrell, Mrs. Daniel Kint, Mrs. Underwood and Miss Lizzie Crawford as charter members.

Chapter 28.

Early in January, 1889, B. B. Blosser, editor and publisher of the True Republican began planning for a spelling contest to be participated in by all the public schools of the county, the prize to be a set of Alden's Encyclopedia for the winning school. A committee of arrangement was appointed composed of Mrs. N. J. Dunham, Mrs. C. V. Martin, Miss Kate McLean, B. R. Shimp, J. F. Wicks, N. E. Williams, and E. C. Nordyke, with B. B. Blosser and Supt. Binford.

The interest of the schools at once became great. Each township could be represented by a class of four students made up from all the schools of the township, the classes to be selected at township contests to be held on the 2nd day of March. The township contests were conducted by educators from outside the township. The appointments were as follows:

Alpena—F. B. Phillips, of Dale.

Dale—Mrs. N. J. Dunham, of Alpena.

Chery—E. F. Harmston, of Dale.

Harmony—B. R. Shimp, of Pleasant.

Marlar—Mrs. C. V. Martin, of Crow.

Pleasant—F. K. Luke, of Pleasant.

Media—N. E. Williams, of Anina.

Wessington Springs—E. C. Nordyke, of Wessington Springs.

Franklin—J. F. Wicks, of Logan.

Blaine—Jesse Morse, of Viola.

Anina—Miss Ida Nesmith, of Viola.

Crow Lake—Supt. Binford, of Pleasant.

Logan—Mrs. E. G. Will, of Logan.

The county contest occurred on the 9th day of March and was participated in by twelve townships represented by the following classes:

Alpena—Abbie Whitney, James Worrall, R. W. Tennery and Edgar Beadell.

Dale—James Tracy, Daniel Tracy, Lora Gregory and Rosa Youngs.
 Chery—Grace Lanning, Clarence Lanning, Mary Miller, and Charles Miller.

Harmony—Anna Titus, Ernest Huntley, Rena Butterfield and Charles Weeks.

Marlar—Rebecca Ruan, Laura Ruan, Grace Ruan and Cora Corbin.

Pleasant—Sarah Elmore, Mabel Holdridge, Mary Marlenee and Rolla Lynn.

Media—Manly Voorhees, Clara Voorhees, Harry Young and Louis Beels.

Wessington Springs—Edward K. Starkey, Paulina Mihawk, Sever Starkey and Abe Divick.

Franklin—W. N. Zink, H. E. Whiffin, Mata McCaul and Ira Posey.

Viola—Howard Phillips, Susie Phillips, Wesley Paganhart and Myrtie Moss.

Anina—Geo. Stevens, Tommy Day, Harry Nelson and Samuel Nelson.

Logan—Lewis Pfaff, J. J. Riegal, Lewis H. Waterbury and Anna Hannebuth.

Forty-eight in all.

Blaine, Crow and Crow Lake townships were not represented.

Supt. Binford pronounced 100 words from the first fifty pages of McGuffey's Speller. The words were written by the contestants, with the following results in words missed:

Alpena 2, Anina 3, Franklin 4, Harmony 9, Pleasant 11, Logan 16, Viola 25, Dale 40, Marlar 40, Media 47, Chery 69, and Wessington Springs 75.

Alpena had won the prize.

In an oral contest that followed the prize was won by Miss Anna Hannebuth, of Logan township.

On April 2nd prairie fires raged in all parts of the territory, accompanied by an electric wind storm of great violence. The loss in Jerauld county was estimated at \$100,000. Particulars will be given more fully in a chapter to be devoted to prairie fires.

In business matters but few changes were made during the year and but few new enterprises started.

The territorial farmers Alliance established a warehouse at Wessington Springs to handle farm supplies. This institution began doing business in February, with W. N. Hill as manager.

In the same month Mr. L. G. Wilson, of Viola township called the attention of the farmers to the large number of silk cocoons that were hanging from the branches of small trees throughout the county and requested, through the newspapers, that a quantity be gathered and brought

to him, at Wessington Springs. A barrel of them was soon at his disposal and he shipped them to Paris to be tested as to their value. They were found to be of good quality, but could never afterward be found in sufficient quantities to pay for the work of gathering them.

On October 1st G. N. Price took charge of the Wessington Springs-Waterbury stage line, which gave him control of all the mail routes of the county.

In January, 1889, Ed Hinchliff opened a meat market in Alpena and continued the business until the following July.

In March Ray Barber sold the hardware business in Alpena to Grant McLean, who continued it about a year and then sold to F. B. Phillips. In 1894 Phillips sold the business to D. H. Wood. In June, 1900, he sold to Grant Anderson, who is still in charge.

In the forepart of January, 1889, Isaac Pearce succeeded F. W. Whitney in the Alpena post office.

During the same month Roth Bros. opened The Security Bank in their store at Alpena.

In March following W. F. Cass started an art studio in Alpena.

The latter part of July D. F. Royer repurchased the Journal from Lacy F. Schaefer.

At Waterbury no changes of importance occurred in 1889 until the forepart of November, when C. M. Hopkins rented his hotel to Wm. Toaz.

J. H. Vessey moved from Crow Lake to Wessington Springs about the middle of January, 1889, and the next month bought the mercantile business of Albert & Vessey.

In February, 1889, Mrs. Albert Gunderson opened an abstract office in the rear room of the old Herald building.

R. S. Vessey and C. E. Nordyke formed a partnership to do real estate business at Wessington Springs and opened their office in the building erected by W. J. Williams on the lot owned by H. Bakewell, of Plankinton. The partnership continued until Oct. 1st.

D. W. Clink and F. G. Vessey closed up their farm implement business in March, leaving the field open to the Farmers' Alliance Co.

A restaurant was opened by Mrs. Francis Smith in the forepart of April, in a building put up by Dr. Turner on a lot west of Thayer's bank.

One of the buildings erected in Wessington Springs in 1889, was a stone bath house in July, by A. C. Thompson, on the east side of the creek opposite his barn. The barn is now owned by Mrs. Eva Whitney, but the bath house soon fell to ruins.

Charles E. Thayer, who in five years had amassed a fortune in the banking business in Wessington Springs, sold his institution to Charles W. Lane, who took charge of the bank Oct. 1st, 1889.

About the middle of November, 1889, Wm. Skinner and C. W. Pettis started a meat market on the south side of Main street, near where Shull's Drug Store now stands.

In religious matters the only events of importance in the county in 1889 were the first Free Methodist camp meeting, which began June 12th and lasted one week, in the grove by the big spring, and the county Sunday School convention which was held May 23rd.

At Crow Lake Mrs. Allyn's vacant store building was used during the summer for church and Sunday school purposes.

On May 15th, 1889, an Epworth League was organized in connection with the M. E. church at Wessington Springs.

Along educational lines the most important event of the year was the organization of a lecture association by R. S. Vessey, G. R. Bateman and Prof. J. K. Freeland. Mr. Vessey was made the president of the society and Mr. Freeland secretary. The society is still alive. During the years of its existence it has brought to the county literary men, lecturers and statesmen of world wide reputation. Among them have been Joseph Cook, the eminent Boston divine, Roswell G. Horr, Michigan's greatest congressman, Joseph Littell, Col. Sanford, Maj. Copeland, besides many other scientists and scholars from all parts of the nation.

In July, 1889, Dr. C. S. Burr, of the Wessington Springs Townsite Company donated to the Seminary ten lots in the town. A few days later Samuel Marlence was employed to build the superstructure on the walls of the Seminary, and the work was done in August of that year, the building being veneered with brick. It was in the chapel room of the new building that the entertainments provided by the lecture course were held.

Another educational enterprise led by the Pioneer W. C. T. U. was a series of meetings held in every township in the county to study the proposed Sioux Falls constitution for the new state.

The fourth annual teachers' institute was held Oct. 28th to Nov. 8th inclusive, with Prof. Enos as conductor.

In the line of amusements in 1889, one of the notable events was a sham inaugural in Odd Fellows Hall at Alpena, which was attended by fun-loving people from Woonsocket, Wessington Springs and all parts of the county.

On what was then known as the White tree claim, adjoining Alpena on the south, was established a race track in the summer of 1889. Ray Barber was secretary of the association. All the records of this society

were destroyed in a fire that occurred in the Journal office a few years later.

The crop prospects in 1889 were good until the 13th of June, when the whole country was visited by a destructive hot wind that blew from the southwest several days. Added to this was the decline in the market price of all kinds of farm products. In September the Chicago price of wheat was 80 cents per bushel; corn, 32c; oats, 19c; butter, 12c per lb.; eggs, 17c per dozen. In Sioux city hogs were sold at \$3.82 per cwt., fat cattle \$2.65 to \$2.75, stockers \$1.85 to \$2.35.

And people were paying from three to seven per cent a month on notes secured by chattel mortgages.

Chapter 29.

The proceedings of the county commissioners in the year 1889 contains but little of interest.

R. J. Eastman became a member of the board on January 7th and Mr. Sickler was made chairman.

On the same day F. W. Whitney took possession of the office of register of deeds, and two days later the official bond of Pat McDonald as sheriff was approved.

On February 5th a resolution was adopted by the board fixing the price of auctioneers' license at \$10 per year.

As a result of the prairie fires that had devastated the county on April 2nd, the county board on April 15th resolved to furnish lumber to the amount of 1,000 feet to people who had suffered loss by fire and 25 bushels of seed grain to those who could not procure it otherwise.

On May 21st the board decided to abandon the section line road between sections 24 and 25 in Franklin township and for \$75 purchased of Mr. McDowall a right of way over his land through what is known as "the pony hills."

The treasurer's report, made the forepart of July, 1889, showed that during the year ending June 30th the county had paid for pauper support \$96.20, and for temporary relief of the poor \$193.64.

The county tax levy made Sept. 2nd was, county general fund, 6 mills; sinking fund, 3 mills; road and bridge, 1 mill. The territorial levy was, general fund, 3.3 mills; bond interest, $\frac{1}{2}$ mill; and stock indemnity, $\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

The act known as the Omnibus Bill, which enabled South Dakota to prepare for statehood passed congress on the 14th day of February, 1889, and on the 22nd was approved and signed by President Cleveland. That year became an era of conventions. Politics of many different brands became the pastime of "all sorts and conditions of men."

A convention at Wessington Springs, January 12th, elected E. V. Miles, C. H. Stephens, J. M. Spears and R. W. Probert delegates to a statehood convention to be held at Huron on the 16th.

A mass temperance convention was held at the county seat on March 28th to prepare for the statehood campaign which was now on.

Jerauld, Buffalo and Hand counties were made the 11th district for representation in the constitutional convention which had been called to meet in Sioux Falls on July 4th, 1889, and were entitled to two delegates, to be elected on the 14th of May.

The Republican district convention to nominate a delegate to the constitutional convention was called to meet at St. Lawrence, in Hand county on May 7th.

The republican county convention to send delegates to the St. Lawrence convention was held at Wessington Springs, May 4th, and S. F. Huntley, of Harmony township received an indorsement for the position of delegate to the Sioux Falls convention. The convention voted that he should select his own delegates, and he named T. L. Blank, E. V. Miles, J. F. Wicks, E. S. Waterbury, A. I. Churchill and O. G. Moodruff, and C. G. Hartley, of Hand county.

Mr. Huntley and C. G. Hartley, of Hand county, were nominated at the St. Lawrence convention and at the election May 14th they were elected delegates to the state constitutional convention.

The opposing Democratic candidates were Jefferson Sickler, of Harmony township, and Mr. Anderson, of Hand county. There are no records of the conventions at which these gentlemen were nominated.

No change was made in the election precincts for the May election, but for that to be held on Oct. 1st each township was made a precinct by itself, and that rule has been followed ever since.

In the constitutional convention Mr. Huntley was a member of the apportionment committee and chairman of the committee on expenses of the convention. On his recommendation Jerauld and Buffalo counties were made one senatorial district.

On July 20th the Republican county committee called two county conventions—one for Aug. 17th to select four delegates to the state convention to be held at Huron and four delegates to the judicial convention to be held at Mitchell, the other to be held Sept. 7th to put in nomination a county ticket and select delegates to the district legislative convention.

On July 26th R. S. Vessey announced his candidacy for the legislature on the Republican ticket.

At the convention held Aug. 17th I. N. Rich was chairman and E. F. Harmston secretary. Delegates were selected to both the state and judicial conventions, those to the latter being instructed to support the candidacy of A. Converse for Judge of the circuit court.

A mass convention was held Aug. 19th to discuss plans for getting aid in the county for the construction on the Huron, Chamberlain & Black Hills railroad. It was decided to ask the townships through which it was proposed to build the road to vote a tax. Accordingly a petition from Dale, Wessington Springs, Media, Crow Lake and Logan townships was laid before the county commissioners on Sept. 12th asking that the matter of voting a tax in aid of the road be submitted to the people of those townships at an early date. The board granted the request and called the election for Oct. 1st, the day set for the statehood election. The promoters of the project at once put in the field a party of surveyors, consisting of:

E. F. Harmston, chief engineer; T. L. Blank, transit man; A. H. West, leveler; J. A. Calhoun, topographer; W. W. Hillis, rodman; Chas. Haskins, head chain; Thos. Day, hind chain; C. Thompson, axman; Chas. Whiffin, back flag; J. J. Doctor, cook; and M. E. Harmstan, teamster.

At the election the tax was voted down in all the townships but Dale.

On the same day a meeting was held to take measures to put Wessington Springs in the race for state capitol. Five thousand acres of land were pledged, and C. E. Thayer elected a delegate to meet representatives of other cities at Aberdeen. That was the end of it.

At the Republican convention on Sept. 7th S. F. Huntley was indorsed for state senator, by acclamation. On the 36th formal ballot V. I. Converse was nominated for the legislature. A. I. Churchill was made the nominee for county Judge.

The Republican district senatorial convention was held in the Hopkins house at Waterbury on Sept. 12th and Mr. Huntley was nominated unanimously.

Two days previously, Sept. 10, the Democrats had held a county convention at Wessington Springs at which Jefferson Sickler, of Harmony township, was nominated for the legislature and J. R. Francis for county judge. No candidate for state senator was named.

At a meeting of the county commissioners on July 13th the county was redistricted for the election of members of the board, as follows:

1st District—Alpena, Franklin, Blaine and Dale.

2nd District—Chery, Wessington Springs, Viola, Anina and Media.

3rd District—The west six townships.

A convention for the nomination of a commissioner for the 3rd dis-

trict was held at Waterbury Sept. 21st and Mr. Henry Herring of Crow township made the nominee.

As in all former elections, the W. C. T. U. organizations of the county kept careful watch over the temperance sentiment. The constitutional convention had submitted to the people of the new state the matter of voting prohibition into the constitution. At the head of the county organization was Mrs. E. V. Miles, of Wessington Springs township, a lady of strong executive ability, and with her were Mrs. Nettie C. Hall, Mrs. J. M. Spears, Mrs. T. L. Blank, Mrs. F. T. Tofflemier, and several others, all determined, earnest women, who knew no such thing as fatigue in their efforts to hold Jerauld county in the temperance column. But behind them all, guiding, counseling, working, was Mrs. A. B. Smart, the founder of the Pioneer W. C. T. U.

Old Unions were reorganized and other temperance societies formed. Meetings were held everywhere that an audience could be gathered.

At Alpena a lodge of I. O. G. T. was formed May 3rd with John Teasdale, chief templar, Mrs. N. J. Dunham, vice-templar, Rev. H. H. Underwood, chaplain, L. F. Schaefer, recording secretary, Ray Barber, financial secretary, Maggie Worrall, treasurer. The lodge had 21 members.

Demorest Medal contests were held at which children spoke temperance pieces.

The election occurred on the first day of October, with the following results:

For the Constitution, 895.

Against the Constitution, 17.

For Prohibition, 598.

Against Prohibition, 315.

For Minority representation, 282.

Against Minority representation, 586.

Mitchell for capital, 54.

Huron for capital, 290.

Pierre for capital, 588.

Sioux Falls for capital, —.

Watertown for capital, 3.

Wessington Springs for capital, 2.

Chamberlain for capital, 5.

State Senator—S. F. Huntley, 785.

Representative—V. I. Converse, 500; J. Sickler, 427.

County Judge—A. I. Churchill.

County Commissioner—H. Herring.

On Nov. 2nd, 1889, at 3:40 p. m. at the city of Washington, President Harrison attached his name to the proclamation declaring South Dakota a member of the Union of States.

PART THREE.

Chapter 1.

The first event in the county, after statehood, was a farmers institute on Nov. 4th, 1889, held under the auspices of the farmers' alliance.

On Nov. 11th N. J. Dunham was appointed clerk of courts for Jer-auld county.

At the instance of Commissioner Sickler the board on the 30th of November, vacated the highway on the section line between sections 4 and 5 in Harmony township.

HARD TIMES.

Those who have followed this history so far will have noticed that the people who took the lead in pushing agricultural civilization out into the great plains of the northwest had prospered in five years as much as those who settled Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and the other states farther east, had in twenty. The railroads in advance of the settlers had relieved the settlers of Dakota of many of the hardships that had been endured by the pioneers of the other states. The one natural hardship was the want of fuel. But the prairies were covered with grass, and this cut, dried and twisted made a fuel that would keep people as warm here as it did the pioneers in Iowa or Kansas. In all other respects the Dakota settler had conditions far more comfortable. Their homes were warm; markets nearer; schools in every township, as many as were needed; and the people had plenty to eat and to wear. Less than \$100 had been spent by the county, in the year ending June 30th, 1889, in caring for the very poor, and but \$193.64 had been required to afford temporary relief to the sufferers from the cyclone of fire that swept the county April 2nd. The climate was dry and healthy and sickness rare. A more contented people never dwelt in a new country than inhabited the Dakota prairies during the 80s.

On the 11th of November the county commissioners asked the C. M. & St. P. Ry. Co. to rebate the freight on coal brought by that line to

deserving and needy settlers. Not a single person entered his name in that class.

About the same time a news item was going the rounds of the European press and being copied in the papers of the eastern states, which read as follows:

"Threatened Famine in Dakota."

"The failure of the harvest in Dakota is complete. A special telegram reports 20,000 persons are in danger of starvation. The St. Paul Chamber of Commerce is organizing for relief. A committee of examination reports that the distress is appalling. No food is to be obtained at any price, and no money wherewith to purchase, if there were any."

Yet, the statistics for that year (1889) are as follows:

	Acreage.	Yield in bu.
Wheat	4,609,717	44,009,092
Oats	1,122,402	21,369,708
Corn	814,677	22,832,073
Barley	255,969	4,455,777
Rye	17,754	301,107
Potatoes	45,656	4,038,262
Flax	403,314	3,288,115

The True Republican commenting on the above item said under date of Nov. 29th, 1889:

"It is false. Let us unite in refuting it. Write to your friends and give them the situation as it is. The truth will not harm us, but these exaggerated reports are doing incalculable injury."

During several weeks prior to the appearance of the above items in the local paper, Roth Bros., local merchants, had been advertising in the same journal the following household supplies for sale:

- 12 lbs. granulated sugar, \$1.00.
- 22 lbs. prunes, \$1.00.
- 17 lbs. evaporated apples, \$1.00.
- 20 lbs. choice white fish, \$1.00.
- 32 bars good soap, \$1.00.
- 1 sack Baker's flour, \$1.05.
- 10 lbs. choice bacon, \$1.00.
- 12 lbs. sugar cured shoulders, \$1.00.
- 16 yards good shirting, \$1.00.

On December 4th occurred an event that changed materially the condition of affairs in Jerauld county, just as similar events changed conditions in other counties of the state.

On the afternoon of that day Gov. A. C. Mellette accompanied by Mr. Doane Robinson, present state historian, arrived in Wessington Springs, after a drive through Franklin, Blaine and Viola townships. These gentlemen were unaccustomed to life on a claim in the true sense of the term. The smell of hay fuel was to them extremely offensive. In fact, hay burned as fuel in South Dakota created just as great a stink as did that in Iowa and Kansas. There was nothing poisonous about it and people using it did not notice the offensive odor. But to the governor it seemed nothing less than horrible. In homes where the settler burned other fuel common at that time the condition did not seem so bad—to the nose—but was more shocking to the eye.

Immediately after his arrival in town the governor asked for a meeting with the leading citizens. In the evening all who had heard of the request assembled in the office of the register of deeds at the court house.

All were surprised and astonished at the governor's tale of destitution, but when, on closer questioning it was found that the principal need was better fuel, and that coal could be obtained without freight charges, it was concluded to organize and see what was needed and what could be done. A county relief committee was formed with A. M. Mathias, chairman; C. W. McDonald, secretary; and Mrs. J. M. Spears, treasurer. The township committee was:

Alpena—Mrs. J. R. Milliken.

Dale—O. G. Woodruff.

Chery—C. W. Hill.

Harmony—I. N. Rich.

Marlar—Wm. Orr.

Franklin—Mrs. J. W. Harden.

Wessington Springs—Mrs. J. M. Spears.

Media—Chas. Hanson.

Pleasant—J. E. Sullivan.

Crow—E. S. Waterbury.

Blaine—C. C. Wright.

Viola—J. N. Smith.

Anina—V. I. Converse.

Crow Lake—S. H. Melcher.

Logan—H. A. Frick.

This committee at once made a thorough canvas of the whole county and found no destitution and but few who cared to accept the coal. In all of the county only 94 tons of coal were requested. The county commissioners then asked the C. M. & St. P. Ry. to ship in two hundred tons of coal free for the people of Jerauld county, but the company refused.

saying they could not afford to carry any more coal to Dakota free of freight.

And so the year 1889 drew on to its close, a few politicians and misguided philanthropists soliciting charity that was not needed, and the people getting along very comfortably, still burning such fuel as the prairies afforded. There was no suffering.

While the events above mentioned were occurring in official and philanthropic circles a Dale township farmer, of German birth, was busy doing a work that was of more beneficial influence to Jerauld county and the James River Valley, than anything done by all the politicians of the state. Daniel Schmidt was risking his all in putting down the first artesian well in the county. The well was completed in the latter part of December, and a flow of fifty-two gallons a minute secured.

A mile north of Schmidt's farm John Teasdale had erected a feed mill for grinding feed, corn meal and Graham flour, and there many of the settlers had their grists of corn and wheat ground.

On the northwest quarter of section 29, in Media twsp. Wm. Brodkorb began grinding grain for the people of that vicinity and continued the work for several years. In 1892 Mr. Brodkorb ground over 3,000 bushels. The nearest flouring mill was at Woonsocket, 27 miles away.

In the latter part of December, 1889, Blank & Blank purchased the Waterbury Messenger of O. P. Hull and united it with their Herald office at Wessington Springs.

On Christmas eve, festivities at the Grieve school house, in Harmony township, attracted a good attendance, and the next evening a dance at the court house hall in Wessington Springs was attended by 50 couples.

Chapter 2.

It is an old and true saying that a well man can be made ill unto death by being constantly told that he is sick.

The treasurer's report made to the county commissioners during the second week in January, 1890, showed that the amount expended by the county for relief of the poor between the first day of October, and the 31st day of December, 1889, had been but eight dollars,—less than had been expended in the same length of time during all the previous history of the county.

The committee appointed at the time of the visit of Gov. Mellette, Dec. 4th, 1889, had been met with a general denial of the need of charity.

In many instances the committee actually became solicitors, begging people who were abundantly able to care for themselves to accept of the proffered aid. Up to the first of February not a pound of donated stuff had reached Jerauld county from outside its borders. In the forepart of January a mercantile firm at Wessington Springs had donated 100 sacks of flour to the relief committee for distribution. By the 20th of February only 30 of them had been taken.

In February it had become generally known that Gov. Mellette had gone east to solicit aid for the needy people of the state. Hard times became the general topic of conversation, and the people of Marlborough township appointed a committee of four to go east and solicit aid for their community. The committee was composed of J. C. Longland, Wm. Orr, Wm. Rainy, and Mrs. Tillman Hunt. In February four carloads of feed, fuel and provisions had arrived at St. Lawrence for that township, and later another carload was received. Then people began to go out on their own behalf. In one township three farmers made up a purse of one hundred dollars and sent one of their number to Iowa to solicit aid which was divided among those three.

Through the urging of the committee three hundred families had applied for aid in one form or another, by the first of March. It was a matter of common knowledge that not to exceed fifty of these families were in need of help and they the county was abundantly able to care for.

In March supplies began to arrive in large quantities and by the 1st of April the county jail was filled with the stores sent by the benevolent people of Iowa, who had read the exaggerated stories of the needs of the people.

Gov. Mellette returned from his eastern trip the forepart of March, in time to attend the G. A. R. encampment at Sioux Falls. There he met Gen. Alger, of Michigan, who had promised to give \$500, if he found, on personal investigation, that the reported destitution actually existed. Before leaving the state he refused to make the donation, declaring that the conditions did not justify it. United States Senator Pettigrew denounced the expedition of the governor, in unmeasured terms, as uncalled for and unwise. Many others endeavored to correct the impression that had gone abroad that the Dakotas were indeed a part of the great American Desert.

In February, 1890, the Sioux City Journal, speaking of the reported conditions in South Dakota, said: "South Dakota has made incomparably more rapid progress during the past ten years as a territory than Iowa did during the first ten years of its history as a state. The people of South Dakota have not suffered more from storms, drought and failure of crops than the people of Iowa did at the corresponding period of their

history—not nearly so much. The people of South Dakota have accumulated more wealth and at a vastly more rapid rate than did the people of Iowa during the early stages of their settlement. The people of South Dakota have actually taken more value out of their soil than the people of Iowa were able to do.

It is doubtless true that many have gone to South Dakota who went unwisely, who might have done better elsewhere and who ought never to have tried their fortunes in the new northwest. Precisely the same thing happened in Iowa. Improvident, thriftless, weak, or otherwise unqualified men always rush off to new regions and when they fail, they return to curse the country for their own fault. Iowa would never have prospered if it had been judged by this standard. And it is no more true as applied to South Dakota now than it would have been as applied to Iowa then."

Albeit the state of South Dakota had produced more wealth per capita than any other state in the union in 1889 as shown by the official report, yet the story of starvation spread. In January the Bankers Association, in session at Huron, voted to raise \$10,000 for the needy of the state, but continued the rate of interest at from 3 to 10 per cent a month.

Of the great quantity of donated clothing sent to Jerauld county during February and March, 1890, many packages were never used, but years afterwards were thrown out upon the prairie.

In February the attention of the County Commissioners was called to the necessity for seed grain. Each member was made a committee to investigate the matter in the district in which he lived. At the meeting March 5th the board resolved to furnish seed grain to those who were actually destitute and had no available means to obtain the same; the amount to be furnished not to exceed 30 bushels of wheat, 30 bushels of oats and four bushels of corn to any one person.

After this order was made many who had seed to sell refused to sell except to the county. Thus many were forced to apply to the county for seed who would otherwise have been able to obtain it on their own security. The result was that by the middle of April the county board had issued warrants for seed grain to the amount of \$2,313.27, nearly all of which was furnished by Jerauld county farmers. Each person who obtained seed from the county gave his note with one other person as security, payable Oct. 1st. Every note was paid before the county redeemed the warrants.

Gov. Mellette received contributions to the amount of \$35,666.46. Out of this Jerauld county received five carloads of corn for feed and \$335.35 in money, April 20th.

Aside from the talk of hard times as already related affairs in the county went on about as usual.

On January 6th Henry Herring qualified as a member of the board, and John Grant was made chairman.

Sept. 1st the board levied the tax for 1890, at 6 mills for the county general fund, 1 mill for the sinking fund and 2 mills for the bridge fund. The state tax that year was 2 mills for general fund and four-tenths of a mill for the bond interest fund.

About the middle of November, Henry Herring resigned his position as county commissioner and with his family removed to the new state of Washington.

The C. M. & St. P. Ry. tax for 1889 amounted to \$132.44, of which the first half was paid in March, 1890.

The county spelling contest was held March 8th and was won by Harmony township with a class composed of the following pupils: Mary Huntley, Rena Butterfield, Anna Titus and H. L. Pfaff. The oral contest was won by May Hobert of Pleasant township.

The county Sunday School convention was held Sept. 3rd.

The teachers' institute for the county was held Sept. 22nd with Prof. Clark M. Young, of Tyndall, conductor, and S. F. Huntley, assistant.

The lecture course which had been planned during the latter part of 1889, opened on the 27th of January with a lecture by Col. Copeland, subject, "Snobs and Snobbery." The last of the five lectures in the course was on March 7th. These lectures were attended by large audiences composed mainly of farmers and their families, some of whom came 20 miles, driving home in the night after the entertainment.

On April 4th the ladies of the M. E. Church at Wessington Springs disbanded their missionary society and reorganized under the name of The M. E. Ladies' Aid Society, with Mrs. E. J. Campbell, Prest.; Mrs. Elizabeth Tofflemier, Vice Prest.; Mrs. L. A. Stephens, Secretary; and Mrs. Emma Chapman, Treasurer.

At the instance of Mr. Blosser, of the True Republican, a horse show was held at Wessington Springs, May 3rd at which 11 fine stallions were exhibited. The sweepstake rosette was awarded to F. S. Coggshall's imported English shire, "J. B. Sensation."

Some farmers of Dale and Wessington Springs townships organized a company March 22nd to buy a thorobred stallion. S. H. Albert and L. F. Russell were commissioned to buy the animal. They visited several points in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, and returned with a splendid Clydesdale horse named "Up to time."

May 3rd a baseball club was organized at Wessington Springs for the season. Among the players were M. M. Flint, Capt., Will and Al

Zink, Jas. Osborne, F. G. Vessey, Nate Spears, Myron Pratt and K. W. Blanchard. A similar organization was perfected at Alpena and also at Waterbury. In the latter nine were Joe Collier, Capt., Oscar and John Hudson, Clell Titus, John Holzer, Tom Bishop, Herb Baker, Harry Rex and Geo. Backus. In the Alpena club were Sam H. May, Jeff Hillis, Bert Manwaring, Fred Phillips, L. W. Castleman and enough more to fill out the nine. During the summer many hotly contested games were played, witnessed by crowds gathered from all parts of the county. At these contests hard times and all else but the sport of the day were forgotten.

On the 4th of July Wessington Springs celebrated. It seemed that every man, woman and child was present. Two great attractions were the ball game between Alpena and Wessington Springs clubs, and the beef killing by a band of Crow Creek Indians, although there was much favorable mention of a speech delivered by W. B. Sterling, of Huron.

Great interest was manifested in the west part of the county in a series of Sunday school institutes held in Pleasant township.

At Alpena the race track commenced the year before was completed and on the 23rd of July the first racing meet was held there. Horses were entered by Ray Barber, Owen Ferguson, John Chamberlain, besides many from other parts of the state. Centerville, Aberdeen, Groton, Miller, Rhee Heights, Pierre, White Lake and Springfield were all represented by horses at the Alpena races in 1890.

Chapter 3.

While the market prices in 1890 were a little better than in the preceding year, yet they were so low as to materially effect activity in business matters. In Sioux City hogs were \$3.62, cattle (stockers), \$2.65 to \$3.15. In Chicago the price of wheat was \$1.00, oats 48c, corn 50c, butter 9c to 17c, and eggs 16c.

In February Mr. Herring, a merchant at Waterbury took to Woonsocket 4000 pounds of dairy butter that he had taken in at his store.

April 1st O. P. Hull, a merchant of Waterbury, closed a deal by which he became proprietor of the Roth Bros. store at Wessington Springs. As a result of this move Mr. Louis Roth took charge of the store at Alpena, and Theo. Roth opened a store at West Superior, Wis.

In September F. B. Phillips purchased a half interest in Grant McLean's hardware store at Alpena.



Jefferson Sickler.



Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Kinsman.



C. W. England.



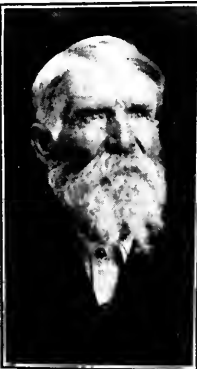
F. T. Tofflemier.



Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Eddy.



Mrs. F. T. Tofflemier.



W'm. Webber.



D. F. Moulton.



W. F. Yegge.



J. N. Smith.

July 1st G. N. Price retired from all the mail routes in Jerauld county and a change was made in driver on nearly all the lines. H. D. Howell of Woonsocket, took the Woonsocket line. George Vanous, the Crow Lake Line, David Glen the Waterbury line, while E. U. Cummings took the lines from Miller to Mt. Vernon.

In June 1890 the county was again visited by hot winds and crops of small grain badly damaged. The hot winds are often confused with the idea of a drouth, but in fact there was rain in both 1889 and 1890 enough to have matured splendid crops. The damage was owing by a few days of hot wind each year, just at the time when the grain was forming.

The Woodburn building in Wessington Springs, which was built where the First National Bank building now stands, was completed by the forepart of July and Albert & Vessey took possession with their stock. This firm had purchased the mercantile stock of J. H. Vessey in the latter part of April.

On April 23rd Hinds & Anderson of Woonsocket established a branch meat market in Wessington Springs, but a few weeks later sold the shop to F. E. Caldwell of Sioux Falls.

Mrs. J. M. Spears began work on the addition, 20x45, to her hotel on March 28th, S. Marlenee doing the work. When the building was completed Mrs. Spears named the building "The Willard," and on the south side of the office she planted a rose bush which she named "The Willard Rose." Both the hotel and bush are still thriving.

Morse & La Pont dissolved partnership March 22nd, Mr. Morse continuing the hardware business and La Pont retiring because of failing health.

In April Mrs. Weddle opened a millinery shop on the south side of Main street, which she conducted during the summer.

In March Wm. Kline began business as a blacksmith in what was known as the Woodburn shop and a few weeks later F. L. Wood moved to Wessington Springs from Crow Lake and began blacksmithing in a shop owned by E. L. Smith.

In September another change was made in the old Roth Bros. store, O. P. Hull selling the stock to George and E. E. Burger.

For the convenience of themselves and the public Albert & Vessey put in a set of scales on the west side of the street opposite the Woodburn building. This was done in November.

In the spring of 1890 a board of trade was organized in Wessington Springs that was of great benefit in keeping up the business interest of the village. The officers of this association were C. W. Lane, Prest.; J. H. Woodburn, V. Prest.; E. C. Nordyke, Sec.; R. S. Vessey, Treas.

The executive committee were C. H. Stephens, A. M. Mathias, B. B. Blosser, W. N. Hill and P. R. Barrett. One of the first projects that engaged the attention of the board was the establishment of a creamery. On Dec. 10, 1890, arrangements were completed with Mr. J. C. Longland to open such an institution in the spring of 1891.

On January 8th, 1890, Alpena petitioned the board of county commissioners for permission to incorporate. The petition was granted subject to an election to be held on the 29th of April. The territory to be embraced within the proposed incorporation is described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of Section 11—108—63, running thence north along the section line to the northeast corner of the SE quarter of Sec. 2, thence west to the northwest corner of the SE quarter of Sec. 3, thence south to the southwest corner of the SE quarter of Sec. 10, thence east to the place of beginning. At the election the people of the territory described voted to incorporate and at the election for municipal officers, Isaac Pearce, Richard Davenport, and L. N. Loomis were made village trustees, Ray Barber, clerk; Davids Thumb, assessor; D. S. Manwaring, treasurer; David Orwig, marshal; and W. W. Huxtable, justice.

In June 1890 the I. O. G. T. lodge of Alpena had nearly 100 members. C. D. Worrall and W. W. Huxtable were sent as delegates to the grand lodge, which met at Aberdeen. At this meeting Mr. Huxtable was made treasurer of the grand lodge of the state.

As in all former years, so in 1890, politics became a matter of most absorbing interest. In Jerauld county the politicians were confronted with a condition that had never existed before. It was nothing less than a revolt of the farmers from the domination of the so-called "leaders" in politics. It is undoubtedly true, always, that in the game of politics hard times will find voters associating with strange playfellows.

With the beginning of the year men prominent in the farmers' alliance began to reorganize the societies in all the counties of the state and making them secret organizations.

A meeting of the state alliance about the middle of June had submitted to the various county alliances the question of joining in independent political action. The Jerauld county alliance at a meeting held June 21st decided to join the movement and a convention was called for July 5th to elect three delegates to a state convention to be held July 9th in the city of Huron. At this county convention S. S. Vrooman, I. H. French and C. C. Wright were elected to attend the convention at Huron. It was also voted to put a full county ticket in the field. Every township in the county, except Dale, was represented with full delegations, and every member a farmer. A county committee composed of one committeeman from each township, was elected and instructed to call a county

convention to be held before either of the old parties had nominated a county ticket.

The township committeemen were as follows:

Alpena, W. J. Winters; Anina, J. A. Swan; Blaine, C. W. Parker; Chery, W. Horsley; Crow, Wm. Austin; Crow Lake, David Moulton; Dale, Andrew Mercer; Franklin, A. J. Bevins; Harmony, C. W. Mills; Logan, H. A. Frick; Marlar, J. E. Marshall; Media, W. A. Housel; Pleasant, H. P. Faust; Viola, Chas. Walters; Wessington Springs, W. N. Hill.

Mr. Hill was the only man on the committee who was not a farmer. He was elected chairman and called the committee together immediately after adjournment of the convention. They called a county nominating convention for Tuesday, July 15th, the caucuses to be held on Monday the 14th.

At the convention on the 15th the Independents put in nomination the following ticket:

Representative—V. I. Converse.

Register of Deeds—F. W. Whitney.

Auditor—O. J. Marshall.

Treasurer—P. H. Shultz.

Sheriff—Pat McDonald.

County Judge—A. I. Churchill.

District Attorney—C. W. McDonald.

Clerk of Courts—S. S. Vrooman.

Supt. of Schools—Jennie Miles.

Assessor—H. A. Frick.

Surveyor—B. R. Shimp.

Coroner—John Chapman.

J. N. Smith, of Viola township was indorsed for the state senate.

On July 19th the Republicans held their county convention and nominated the following candidates:

Representative—John Teasdale.

Register of Deeds—A. J. Miller.

Auditor—A. Bywater.

Treasurer—H. J. Wallace.

County Judge—A. Converse.

District Attorney—E. C. Nordyke.

Sheriff—J. R. Eddy.

Clerk of Courts—N. J. Dunham.

Supt. of Schools—Geo. O. Williams.

Assessor—D. B. Paddock.

Surveyor—T. L. Blank.

Coroner—A. M. Mathias.

S. F. Huntley was indorsed for the state senate.

The Democrats held a county convention Sept. 4th and placed the following ticket in nomination:

Representative—Jeff. Sickler.

Register of Deeds—F. W. Whitney.

Auditor—S. B. Shimp.

Treasurer—H. J. Wallace.

Sheriff—Pat McDonald.

Judge—M. C. Ayers.

Attorney—J. R. Francis.

Clerk of Courts—W. L. Arnold.

Supt. of Schools—Mary A. Williams.

Assessor—Fred Kater.

Surveyor—B. R. Shimp.

Coroner—E. L. Turner.

At the district senatorial conventions, both of which were held at Waterbury, the Independents nominated J. N. Smith and the Republicans, S. F. Huntley.

In the 2nd commissioner district the Independents nominated M. A. Schaefer and the Republicans renominated John Grant.

All through the campaign the Independents showed the effects of superior organization. The Republicans could not overcome the results of the factional fighting of previous years. The Democrats made no efforts to carry their ticket.

Equal suffrage was made an issue in the campaign but was not taken seriously by the voters generally.

The election came on Nov. 4th and resulted in the overwhelming defeat of the Republican ticket except as to treasurer, superintendent and assessor.

The alliance had won in the political battle so far as several of the counties were concerned, but the Republicans had carried the state.

The first term of Circuit court under statehood was held May 5, 1890, Hon. Dick Haney, judge.

In the campaign of 1890 the contestants for the state capital were Pierre and Huron, the former carrying Jerauld county by a large majority. During the summer Pierre had kept two squads of surveyors traversing the western part of the county and surveyed two lines from northwest to southeast, just as Huron the previous year had surveyed pretended railroad lines from northeast to southwest.

Chapter 4.

The beginning of 1891 found a feeling of depression existing among all classes of people. The numerous expeditions in search of charity, indulged in by so many people had a demoralizing effect upon the public generally, and to this was added the effect of a second year of poor crops. The political campaign of 1890 had been fought upon the proposition that the people were the victims of great governmental wrongs, and from every school house and public hall they constantly heard how very poor they were. The result was a feeling of unrest. Many sold out and moved away, some moved away without selling. The places of those who left were in many instances, taken by others who came, some from Iowa, some from Illinois, while many of those who left the county in 1891 returned in that or succeeding years to rent the former home or other land near by. Among those who came while the old settlers were leaving were Wm. Webber, who bought land in Viola township, Lewis Haskins, who purchased the old Nordyke farms in Harmony, and A. McCloud, to buy a home in Chery township.

January 3rd, 1891, the board of county commissioners met in special session to act upon the resignation of H. Herring, of the 3rd district and to appoint his successor. After accepting the resignation the remaining members, Grant and Eastman, called in the register of deeds, F. W. Whitney, and the county judge, A. I. Churchill, and organized a board to appoint a new member in place of Mr. Herring. The appointing board ballotted several times, the result being two for F. S. Coggshall of Pleasant, and two for Jefferson Sickler of Harmony. The county treasurer, H. J. Wallace, was then called in, who voted for Mr. Coggshall, and he was declared elected.

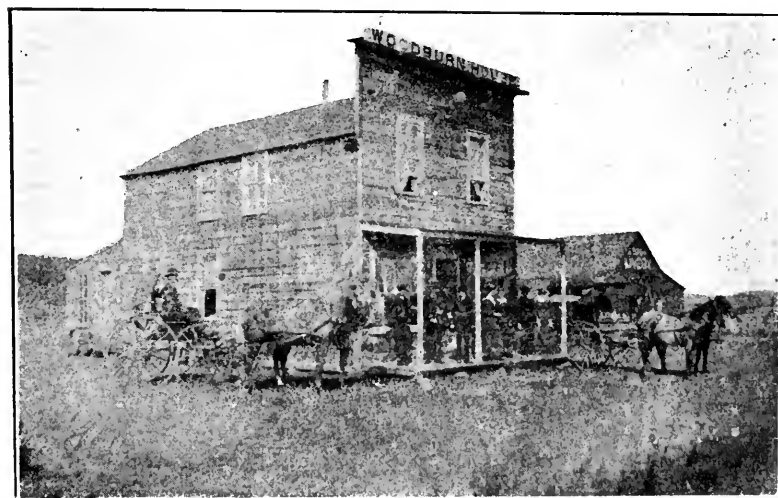
On the same day the board perfected an arrangement by which the county became the owner of a quarter section of land in Media township, owned by Mrs. Mary Smith, the consideration being that the county should provide Mrs. Smith a home and care for her as long as she should live. A residence was accordingly built on one of the county lots near the court house, and in it the aged widow found a home for several years. This event in the county's history is made the subject of a touching story written by Mrs. Maud Cotton, formerly Maud Campbell, a daughter of Rev. J. G. Campbell. The story appears in the appendix to this volume.

On January 5th M. A. Schaefer took the oath as commissioner to succeed Mr. Grant from the 2nd district.

Jerauld County's first installment of money from the leasing of school



Willard Hotel 1890.



Woodburn House in 1886.

lands of the state came on the 14th of January, 1891, and amounted to \$273.85.

Following the precedent of the previous year the board decided to furnish seed grain to farmers of the county who desired it. Accordingly, on the 20th of March an arrangement was made with L. N. Loomis to furnish grain, not to exceed \$50 in amount, to any one person, at the following prices: Wheat 92c to 94c; millet, \$1.00 to \$1.10; flax, \$1.35; oats, 50c. Some grain was purchased from farmers in the county who had a surplus on hand. The total amount of seed grain provided by the county in the spring of 1891 was \$6,936.98. To secure payment for the grain so furnished the county filed liens on the crops sown. On April 9th 122 seed liens were filed.

During the first six months of 1891 the county expended \$508.11 in support of the poor.

As usual with the spring rains which are always abundant, hope revived and the settlers busied themselves with putting in their crops.

A few had been furnished with a small amount of grain by societies of which they were members. The I. O. O. F. secured \$100 to be expended in seed grain for needy members of the order.

The State Farmers' Alliance sent 1435 pounds of seed grain to each of the 14 alliances in the county. In Marlar township the alliance members got together and sowed the grain thus received on a piece of corn ground that had been abandoned by some discouraged settler. Together they harvested and threshed the crop. The yield was 262 bushels of wheat and 36 bushels of oats, which they divided equally.

The winter of 1890-91 was an open winter and very mild, but little snow falling until the 7th of February, from which time it fell heavily until spring, when it was followed by heavy rains until about the 1st of May. Then it stopped. Probably the most discouraging period in the history of the county was during the month of May, 1891. The surface of the ground became dry and dusty. The vegetation turned from green to brown and then yellow. By the 25th of the month there were many fields of wheat that did not show even a shade of green—the plants appeared to be dead. In the corn fields and late sown fields of small grain, cut worms appeared in countless numbers. They moved across fields like an army devouring every green thing.

Some farmers gave up in despair and started to go. They knew not where. Then the rains came.

It was a year of wonderful crops. All over Jerauld county the rains came as needed. On some abandoned wheat fields of the year before a crop volunteered with no cultivation and yielded 8 to 10 bushels per acre. The largest yield of the year—or of any year—in Jerauld county.

was on a field of 12 acres, a part of the farm of D. A. Scott, in Media township at the foot of the hills, on section 1, occupied by W. L. Arnold, where forty-seven bushels per acre was harvested. The crop of over 100 acres made an average yield of 33 bushels per acre.

In Blaine township over 700 stacks of wheat could be counted from one point, besides hundreds of acres in shock.

And the prices of farm produce, too, were better. In Sioux City on Sept. 28th, hogs were \$4.50; cattle (stockers) \$2.00 to \$2.50. In Chicago wheat was 96c; corn 40c; oats 26c; flax 98; butter (creamery) 20c to 31c, dairy 17c to 19c; eggs 17c to 18c. On April 10th, the local paper thought it worthy of mention that granulated sugar had come down to 17 pounds for a dollar.

The rate of interest on money remained at from three to ten per cent a month.

In 1891 there was much discussion of the subject of sinking artesian wells in various townships for purpose of irrigation. In Media township during the first week in August, County Surveyor Shimp located sites for eight such wells. The matter was submitted to the voters of the township on December 22nd and voted down.

In Viola township artesian wells became a matter of private enterprise and were contracted for, in January, by Peter Klink, P. H. Shultz and Chas. Walters. The drillers commenced at once on Klink's farm and pushed the work as rapidly as possible. In some way the driller blundered and the Klink well failed after striking the flow. He then abandoned his contracts.

In Anina township S. S. Moore began work on a well on his farm and kept at it all summer gaining a depth of over 1200 feet, but failed to secure a flowing well.

In this year it was proposed to issue bonds to take up the outstanding county warrants, which were selling at 80 to 90 cents on the dollar. The county was now receiving more from taxes than was required to pay running expenses, and by refunding the debt which amounted to about \$16,000, the warrants could have been held at par. The project was defeated however, mainly through the influence of speculators, who were dealing in county warrants.

The farmers, realizing the benefits to be derived from the operation of the farmers elevator at Alpena, pledged 2000 bushels of wheat as a fund with which to do business. Shares of stock were sold and the debt of the institution paid.

In January plans were suggested for establishing a creamery at Wessington Springs. The matter was taken up by the Wessington Springs Board of Trade and in February arrangements were perfected with Mr.

J. C. Longland to put in a plant. The old agricultural hall was moved up from the fair grounds and given to Mr. Longland as a bonus and with it was given the use of five acres of ground on the section line road running east and west through the north part of town. Work was pushed as fast as possible and in May Mr. Longland started his wagons gathering the cream from all parts of the county.

The True Republican annual spelling contest occurred at Wessington Springs on the 14th of March, 1891. The first grade prize for written work was won by Samuel Nelson, Harry Nelson and George Stephens, they forming the class from Anina township. The second grade prize was won by a class from the same township composed of Alex. Vessey, Frank and Clarence Moore. The prize for oral spelling was won by John Riegall, of Logan township.

The county teachers institute began on the 7th of Sept. and continued one week, with Prof. Parker as conductor.

Monthly Sunday School institutes were continued in the west part of the county during the summer and autumn.

The annual Sunday School convention was held at Wessington Springs on June 24th.

In Franklin township two Sunday Schools were organized in the spring of 1891, one at the Kogle school house, April 5th, with C. M. Clark, Supt., and one at Rock Valley in May.

In December a Christian Endeavor Society was organized at Wessington Springs, the officers being, T. L. Blank, Prest.; Mary A. Williams, V. Prest.; and Anna S. Hannebuth, Sec. and Treas.

At Alpena a Presbyterian church was organized by Rev. Hill, synodical missionary, on May 4th, the opening sermon being preached by Rev. Edwin Brown. The original members were Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Clark, by letter from Woonsocket church; Mr. John Houmes and Miss Lena Houmes, from Rose Hill church; Mrs. Mary Houmes, from Woonsocket church; Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Worrall and their sons; Harry E., James W., and Charles Worrall, from Rose Hill; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Strain, by profession. During the first two years of its existence the church was supplied by Rev. Hill, as minister, helped by Rev. Work. The elders of the new church were C. M. Clark and C. D. Worrall. The trustees were John Houmes and O. G. Woodruff. The first representative to presbytery was C. M. Clark; the first delegate to synod was C. D. Worrall.

In this year the congregational church at Templeton disbanded and the membership united with the church of that denomination at Wessington Springs, on the 20th day of September. The Wessington Springs church was then under the pastorate of Rev. C. V. Martin, who assumed

that position April 1st, 1891, and continued until Oct. 4th, when he was succeeded by Rev. Jeremiah Kimball. This church had been organized on the 20th day of June, 1886, with Rev. S. F. Huntley, pastor. The original members were Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Blank, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Miles, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bennet and their daughter Minnie, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Brown, and Mr. C. M. Chery. Mr. Huntley remained pastor until June 3rd, 1887, when services were discontinued. Mr. Kimball had charge of the church until June 1st, 1893, when Mr. Huntley again took the position and held it until Oct. 24, 1899, during which time a church and parsonage were built. Rev. Jesse Buswell was then pastor until June 23rd, 1900. He was succeeded on July 5th by Rev. J. B. Reese, who had charge of the church until Oct. 1st, 1901. He was followed by Rev. James Davies until July 1st, 1905. Then came Rev. John E. Hughes till July 1st, 1906, when Rev. Lauriston Reynolds took the pastorate.

In 1891 several changes were made in the newspaper field. On April 24th O. J. Marshall discontinued the alliance column in the True Republican and on May 8th a stock company, known as the Jerauld County Publishing Company issued the first number of "The Dakota Sieve," a paper devoted to the interest of the Independent party, with C. W. Hill, editor and B. W. Moore, printer. In the same month, May, Messrs. L. W. Kreidler and H. H. Gunderson leased the Herald from Blank & Blank for three years, but on Dec. 18th Mr. Blosser announced that he had purchased that paper and merged it with the True Republican. At Alpena, about the middle of January Mr. Simpson suddenly abandoned journalistic work in Jerauld county, and Mr. Ray Barber took editorial charge of the Journal.

In the postal service of the county the changes made were: The appointment of Mrs. P. R. Barrett to be postmistress at Wessington Springs. She received her commission on May 5th. In Sept. O. G. Woodruff, of Alpena, was appointed post office inspector for Jerauld county.

On July 1st, 1891, a U. S. weather reporting station was located at Wessington Springs with Mr. Harvey Russ, reporter. The station is still maintained.

In the forepart of Sept. the public school house which, according to the law in force at the time it was erected, had been built one mile east of the township line, was moved into the village and placed near where the Oliver Hotel stands.

In business affairs but few changes were made in the county. At Waterbury O. P. Hull tore down the building previously occupied by him and shipped it to a suburb of Chicago, where it was rebuilt. In Wessington Springs in Sept. the Wessington Springs Bank was incor-

porated with a capital of \$5,000. The incorporators were L. L. Lane, of Rochester, Minn., E. J. and C. W. Lane, of Wessington Springs.

In August S. T. Leeds moved to Wessington Springs and began blacksmithing in a shop owned by G. N. Price.

At Alpena J. A. Crawford and Isaac Crawford who had been in partnership as blacksmiths dissolved the firm and Isaac continued the business alone. About the same time, James McDowell and E. G. Kinsman formed a partnership and for two years operated a blacksmith shop together.

In the summer of 1891 George Arne entered the mercantile business in Alpena on the south side of Main street.

About the same time F. B. Phillips bought Grant McLean's interest in the hardware business, and Manwaring Bros. succeeded Roth Bros. in general merchandise in I. O. O. F. building.

On the 29th of August the whole county was shocked by the report that Hon. V. I. Converse in a fit of temporary insanity had committed suicide by hanging himself in his barn at his home in Anina township.

Politics attracted but little attention in Jerauld county in 1891. But one county officer was to be elected and that was a commissioner to succeed Mr. Eastman in the east district. The Republicans nominated Mr. R. Vanderveen, of Dale township, and the Independents, Mr. David McDowall, of Franklin. The election resulted in favor of the Independents and McDowall was elected.

Mr. John R. Gamble, member of congress, having died, an election was called by the governor to fill the vacancy. The election was held at the usual time (the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November), and Col. J. L. Jolly, the Republican candidate, carried the county by a plurality of six votes. The election was held under the provisions of the new "Australian ballot" law.

Chapter 5.

If the history of South Dakota journalism is ever written the year 1892 will be pointed to as the time when journalistic billingsgate was most in use. There were but three newspapers in the county. Mr. Barber, who though not a newspaper man by profession or experience, yet conducted a spicy but clean paper, turned the Journal office at Alpena over to Mr. Henry T. Griggs, an ex-preacher, from Brooklyn, N. Y. The character of the paper changed materially. At Wessington Springs

Mr. Hull left the *Sieve* on the 28th of July after having made of it one of the most ably edited papers ever published in the county. Logical, fluent and witty, yet he kept his publication free from anything that could be offensive to any person's sense of decency. Blosser continued in charge of the *True Republican*. He was a printer by trade and a thorough journalist with high ideals. Articles with anonymous signatures that made detrimental reference to any person were refused admission to his columns. In all cases he insisted upon such articles being signed by the writers true name. What he termed "gorrilla" journalism he would not tolerate.

Probably some excuse may be found for a change that occurred in the tone of the papers in the fact that the campaign which began in July became one of the most personally bitter ones imaginable. Such expressions as *dude*, *liar*, *suck pump*, *slush bucket* and kindred expressions, were in common use. It is but fair to Mr. Blosser to say that he maintained for his paper the same standard of excellence during all the years he had control of it.

The year 1892 was presidential election time and the work began early. The Alliance began holding political meetings in February and held them in every township in the county. After the Independents and Republican national conventions both parties held enthusiastic ratification meetings at Wessington Springs. But two county tickets were put in the field. The Republicans made the following nominations:

Register of Deeds—David F. Moulton.

Auditor—W. B. Wilson.

Treasurer—F. S. Coggsall.

Sheriff—Wm. Orr.

County Judge—Alonzo Converse.

District Attorney—C. W. McDonald.

Clerk of Courts—Geo. R. Bateman.

Supt. of Schools—Mrs. N. J. Dunham.

Assessor—J. C. Longland.

Surveyor—Adam West.

Legislative—Senate, J. B. Milliken, of Alpena and Representative, Ezra Cleveland, of Buffalo county.

The Democrats and Independents joined forces and put out the following ticket:

Register of Deeds—E. G. Will, I.

Auditor—O. J. Marshall, I.

Treasurer—P. H. Shultz, I.

Sheriff—K. S. Starkey, I.

County Judge—J. R. Francis, D.

District Attorney—M. C. Ayers, D.

Clerk of Courts—S. S. Vrooman, I.

Supt. of Schools—T. L. White, D.

Assessor—Jas. McDonald, I.

Surveyor—B. R. Shimp, D.

Coroner—E. L. Turner.

Legislative—Senate, J. N. Smith, of Jerauld county, and Representative, James Leach, of Buffalo county.

For county commissioner for the 3rd district the Independents nominated C. S. Barber, of Pleasant township, and the Republicans D. B. Paddock of Logan.

For the first, (and only) time in the history of the county, the teachers as an organized body took a hand in politics. The county teachers' institute met on Sept. 5th and continued in session two weeks, Prof. Jones, of Chamberlain, being the conductor. During this institute a teachers' association was formed. Mr. Williams during his term as county superintendent, had become very popular with the educators of the county, and they now, with but few exceptions signed a request to both the Independent and Republican candidates to decline the nominations that had been tendered them and allow Mr. Williams a clear field as a candidate, independent of party politics. Both the other candidates submitted the matter to their party county committees and the request was denied.

The teachers then urged Mr. Williams to become a third candidate and he consented.

The election was held on Nov. 8th, and the following officers were elected:

Treasurer—F. S. Coggshall.

Register of Deeds—David F. Moulton.

Auditor—O. J. Marshall.

Clerk of Courts—S. S. Vrooman.

States Attorney—M. C. Ayers.

County Judge—J. R. Francis.

Sheriff—K. S. Starkey.

Supt. of Schools—T. L. White.

Surveyor—Adam West.

Coroner—E. L. Turner.

Assessor—J. C. Longland.

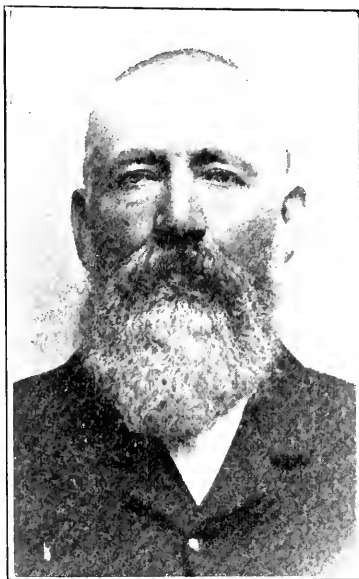
County Commissioners, 3rd district, D. B. Paddock.

Legislative, Senate, J. R. Milliken, Representative, Ezra Cleveland.

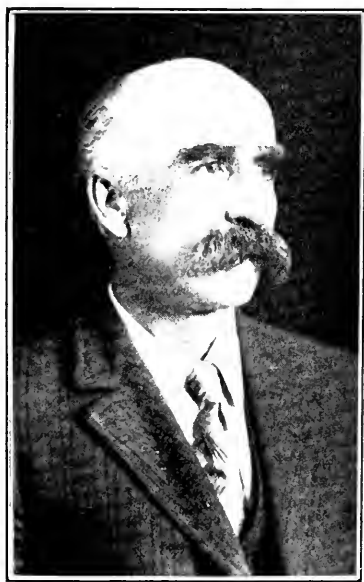
In the proceedings of the county commissioners but little occurred outside of ordinary routine. The seed grain notes taken by the county



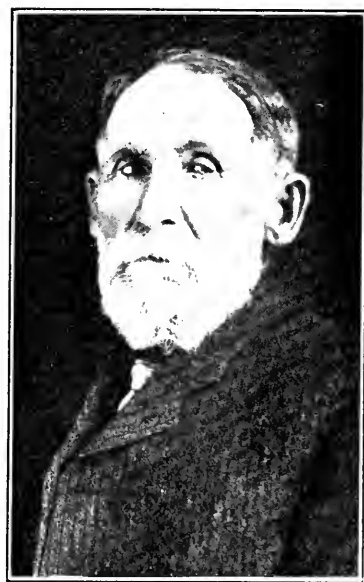
Mrs. J. B. Collins.



S. S. Vrooman.



M. A. Schaefer.



Wm. Brodkorb.

during the three preceeding years had nearly all been paid,—only \$388.80 remaining uncollected on April 1st.

The expense of caring for the poor during the year 1892 was but \$240.20.

David McDowall took the oath as a member of the board on January 4th and the new board made F. S. Coggs shall chairman.

The people of the northern townships petitioned the county commissioners to have the hill road west from Alpena graded for the benefit of the farmers in that part of the county who marketed their produce and obtained their supplies at that station. The petition was laid over and never granted.

The east half of sections 12 and 13 of Media township, on the 6th of July, were made a part of Wessington Springs township, and on July 30th the commissioners made an order attaching all of sections 1, 12 and 13 of Media township to Wessington Springs township for all purposes.

A bridge was built across the Firesteel creek in the northeast corner of Viola township and one over Smith creek in the southern part of Logan.

Judge A. I. Churchill died on June 19th, and on petition to the governor, Alonzo Converse was appointed to fill the vacancy.

About May 1st a mass meeting was held at Wessington Springs to arrange for soliciting aid for the people of Russia who were suffering from famine. Over \$70 in money were collected at the meeting and committees appointed in each township to collect money, or grain to be forwarded to the national committee in New York where a ship was waiting to take it to the scene of destitution. Several hundred dollars were collected, but no report was ever made of the exact amount.

Railroad projects were again rumored, and it was said that a road known as the Huron, Wheeler & Denver Ry. was to be pushed through at once and that the Great Northern Ry. Co. was behind the move. The story of the Midland Pacific from Sioux Falls west was revived and people thought it would certainly be built.

On the 10th of February a mass meeting was held at the instance of The Goodland, (Kan.) Rain Co. to take action on a proposition to be submitted by the company to the people of the county. The company for the purposes of their operations had divided the state into districts, 30x50 miles in extent. Their proposal was to produce from one-half to two inches of rainfall over the district when desired, they to receive \$600 therefor, which amount they were willing to take in county warrants. The meeting voted to ask the county commissioners to issue a warrant for \$60, being Jerauld county's portion for the preliminary effort. The commissioners refused and there the matter ended.

Sunday school work was continued as usual in various parts of the county. The county convention was held at Wessington Springs on July 7th and the monthly institutes continued in the western townships. In Wessington Springs a Congregational Sunday School was organized on April 3rd, which has been continued to the present time. A Sunday School was started at the Dale Center school house and continued during the summer.

In Pleasant township a meeting was held on the 8th of May to take steps toward erecting a Congregational church building in the central part of the township.

A district W. C. T. U. convention was held at Wessington Springs on May 25th, at which several counties were represented.

Entertainments were held in Alpena and Franklin townships to provide libraries for the Liberty and Dry Run schools.

A company of farmers was formed in August in Alpena and Franklin townships with D. P. Burnison, president, and Geo. E. Whitney, secretary, to hire their season's threshing done. The company controlled about 1500 acres of grain.

About the same time John Sime began the construction of the large two story frame house that for years stood as a land mark in the northwest part of Franklin township.

In Crow Lake township a gentleman named Welsh, a teacher of vocal music, opened a singing school, and also one in the Kellogg district in Anina township. Both were a success.

At Alpena but few changes occurred in business matters. The Presbyterian church society purchased the old store building at the northwest corner of Main and 2nd streets. The society continued to occupy this building until 1901, when the new church was built.

In the year 1892 J. J. Hillis began business as a barber and continued it until 1897 when he sold to L. N. Tillery. In 1902 A. M. Winters purchased the business from Tillery.

On Nov. 10th a change was made in station masters, Mr. M. J. Remshaw going into the station at Aberdeen and A. Amundson taking the vacancy at Alpena.

In January, 1892, the Bank of Alpena incorporated with L. N. Loomis, D. F. Royer and H. J. Wallace, owners of the stock. This bank had been an exception among the banks of the state in the rates of interest charged, and with the change to a corporation, by it and the bank at Wessington Springs, the rate began to be lowered in all the surrounding towns.

At Wessington Springs, several changes occurred in the business interests.

After the death of Dr. A. M. Mathias, which occurred on the 23rd of January, Mrs. N. C. Hall took sole charge of the drug store and in May became proprietor of it.

About the first of May R. C. Smith opened a drug store in the old Stephens building, which he continued until the next year, when it was destroyed by fire.

In January W. L. Arnold began operating a feed store and continued it until February 17th, when he bought the stock of Berger & Son. About the 10th of March Mr. Arnold sold his stock to the National Union company, he remaining as manager. The plan of this corporation was to secure the trade of members of the farmers alliance. To do this they offered to each member in good standing (whose dues were paid) a return in cash at the end of six months, or a year, an amount equal to two per cent of the total sum of his cash purchases, and in addition thereto a share in the company profits. The company did not live long enough to make any returns, nor divide any profits.

About the 20th of April G. N. Price and J. M. Spears made a deed, whereby Price quit running a hotel and Spears stopped taking teams at the hotel barn.

C. W. England opened a tobacco store in the old Herald building on the north side of Main street, and Will Spears had a barber shop in several different rooms along Main street.

S. T. Leeds purchased the old machinery building on the northeast corner of Main and 2nd Sts. and about the first of September began work there as a blacksmith.

In March Wm. Kline set up an emery wheel in his shop, probably the first wheel of its kind in the county.

The creamery had so far proved a great help to the farming community and in September the tread wheel which had furnished the power was taken out and a steam engine put in its place.

At the Seminary, the first class was graduated on June 23rd. The graduates were Misses M. Della England, Ellen M. Vessey and Anna M. Martin.

The Post Office became a money order office in March.

The price of wheat had dropped to 43 cents per bushel in October.

Chapter 6.

The year 1893 will be remembered by men, and in history, as the year of the great panic. The cause of it will probably always be a matter for discussion by politician, statesmen, economists and historians. But that is a part of it with which this chronicle has nothing to do. We have to do only with events that affected Jerauld county.

People were recovering from the disaster of two years before, and many who had left the county then were returning and a hopeful spirit was common. Farm produce was bringing a better price; hogs \$7 per hundred weight; cattle \$2.50 to \$4.00 for stockers; wheat 60c to 70c per bushel, and there was an activity in real estate that had not been seen for ten years. A large acreage of all kinds of grain was planted. This condition continued until June. Then the crash came. Many there were who said, "We told you so," but they obtained little heed. Men were too astounded and stupified to care for that. In an instant a cyclone of adversity had swept the county and left ruin and despair everywhere.

Dunn & Co.'s commercial agency reported 16,650 failures in the U. S. with aggregate liabilities amounting to \$498,000,000 besides the liabilities of railroads in the hands of receivers, which amounted to \$1,122,217,833, with millions of laborers out of employment.

By October wheat was selling at 25 to 30 cents per bushel, mixed cattle \$1.25 per hundred weight, and everything else in proportion. Every day brought news of additional failures and additional thousands of workmen out of employment. Of what use was the surplus of crop, when there was no busy laborer to buy it? Jerauld county granaries were well filled, and the herds numerous, but these products of the farm could not be sold for enough to pay the cost of production. To the credit of Jerauld county be it said that in that year of the panic and the years that followed but two business houses closed their doors and they did not have the aid of the sheriff nor writs of attachments. Like wayfarers caught in a storm, the people adjusted themselves to the situation as best they could and waited for the tempest to pass.

But aside from the effects of the financial difficulties the affairs of Jerauld county and its people kept on about as usual.

The new commissioner, D. B. Paddock, took the official oath January 3rd and the board organized by electing Mr. Schaefer chairman.

The expense to the county of relieving the poor during the first quarter of the year was \$16.75; during the second quarter, \$64.85; during the third quarter, \$193.89; and during the last quarter, \$18.80. Total for year \$294.29.

A county bridge was built by Daniel Kint, of Alpena, across Sand

Creek in the northeast part of Dale township and another across the same stream south of Alpena. W. N. Hill built a bridge for the county at the west end of Crow Lake across Smith Creek, and one in the southeast corner of Logan township across the same stream. He also built a county bridge across the Firesteel in the northeast part of Viola.

So the work of the county board was performed to the satisfaction of everybody. In September they levied the usual tax for the different purposes and in November Mr. Schaefer was re-elected from the middle district over J. E. White, of Wessington Springs township, Mr. Schaefer receiving every vote in his home precinct.

During the summer and autumn there was the annual rumor about the Midland Pacific Ry., but it ended there..

The yearly Sunday School convention was held on the 6th of June, and in Sept., from the 4th to the 15th, the county teachers' institute was in session with Prof. Savage, of Kimball, conductor, and Miss Barber, of Buffalo county, for the third time assistant conductor.

On January 18th diptheria made its appearance among the students at the seminary, and quarantine followed. For several weeks the school was closed and the most heroic efforts of the faculty were required to care for the sick. Yet, the school was able to graduate a class of one student at the regular commencement exercises on the 23rd of June, when a diploma was granted to Mr. N. B. Gornley. During the spring months the students at the seminary prepared exhibits of their work, which were sent to the educational department of the Worlds Fair at Chicago.

On the evening of November 28 the "Sunshine Makers," a society of children organized by Miss Emma Freeland, one of the seminary teachers, celebrated their first anniversary. This band of little folks had been true to their name and continued so for several years, carrying their bright, cheerful efforts into many places that otherwise would have been gloomy enough.

In connection with the Wessington Springs M. E. Church a junior league was formed Feb. 12th, and on June 24th the W. C. T. U. organized a Loyal Legion with seventeen members.

A district encampment of the G. A. R. was held at Wessington Springs on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July, which was attended by veterans of the civil war from all parts of the state. The principal speakers were Gov. C. H. Sheldon, and Congressman W. N. Lucas. On the next day after the close of the encampment the W. R. C. was reorganized and for several years thereafter was a helpful auxiliary to E. O. C. Ord G. A. R. Post.

The Congregational church which had now become a strong society erected a parsonage, completing it in November.

The annual county spelling contest on March 11th, was won by the Franklin township class, composed of the following students: Misses Lena Whiffin, Julia Doctor and ——— Atkinson.

In February Mrs. P. R. Barrett, who for so many years had been the efficient postmistress at Wessington Springs, resigned her position and G. R. Bateman was appointed to the office.

The village of Wessington Springs, on May 3rd, applied to the county commissioners for permission to incorporate, which was granted subject to an election called for May 15th. The vote was favorable and on May 29th the following officers were elected:

Trustees—J. H. Woodburn, F. W. Whitney and H. J. Wallace.

Clerk—J. K. Freeland.

Treasurer—F. G. Vessey.

Assessor—D. B. Segar.

Justice—Geo. R. Bateman.

Marshall—H. C. Stephens.

The village trustees met on June 2nd and elected J. H. Woodburn president of the board. On July 12th the county commissioners declared the village incorporated.

In the autumn the village trustees awarded to Andrew Mercer the contract for making a stone arch in each of the two gullies that crossed the west part of Main street. One of the arches—the west one—was completed in December, the work being done by Anton Reindl.

The only change among the newspapers of the county was in the Sieve office—C. W. Hill succeeding B. W. Moore as editor.

In this year, 1893, several changes were made in business affairs in the county.

W. L. Arnold, having cleared himself from the entanglements of the National Union Co., again commenced business in the old Kinny building in Wessington Springs. Later in the season he purchased the building where C. N. Hall had been conducting his harness business and moved in there.

Mr. Hall took his harness work out to his farm in Media township.

J. H. Vessey opened a general stock of merchandise in the room vacated by Mr. Arnold and continued the business until December when he sold the stock to C. W. Lane.

In the spring Mr. Wm. Brodkorb began running a meat market in the old Hackett building on the south side of Main street. In the fall he put up a building at the southeast corner of Main and 3rd streets. This was the first permanent market in Wessington Springs.

J. A. Crawford began blacksmithing in a new shop located between Albert & Vessey's store and Price's livery barn.

About March 1st O. O. England began doing a hardware business on the north side of Main street, in the old Herald building. This business was continued by Mr. England for a number of years.

April 1st Pat McDonald engaged in the farm implement business in Wessington Springs.

At Waterbury a gentleman named Harris rented the old Rice & Herring building and in March opened a general merchandise store.

At Alpena Messrs. E. G. Kinsman and James McDowell dissolved partnership as blacksmiths, McDowell going to Minnesota and Kinsman continuing the business alone until 1908, when he sold to his son George and a newpew of the same name.

Probably the most important event in Alpena during the year 1893 was the building of the city scales. This was done in accordance with the statute requiring every incorporated town in the state to provide a set of public scales and appoint a weighmaster who should have a set of U. S. standard weights and measures for testing all weights and measures used by any person in doing business with the public. Senator Milliken had introduced the law and had it passed by the legislature and he insisted upon compliance with its provisions.

Chapter 7.

There was no change in the board of commissioners in January, 1894, but they reorganized on the 2nd day of the month by electing David McDowall chairman.

Caring for the poor during the first three months cost the county \$40.12; 2nd quarter, \$305.24; 3rd quarter, \$145.00.

A steel bridge was built across a branch of Crow Creek in Crow township south of Waterbury in July, the work being done by W. N. Hill. In the village of Wessington Springs the second stone arch was completed on Main street between 2nd and 3rd streets.

By the first of October it was apparent that the county must again furnish seed grain to some of the farmers of the county, and the commissioners requested that a mass meeting be held in each township to ascertain the amount needed, but stating that not more than fifty bushels would be furnished to any one person. The meetings were held and the following report made to the board:

Blaine, 1200 bu.; Anina, 100 bu.; Crow Lake, 180 bu.; Logan, 60 bu.; Franklin, 220 bu.; Wessington Springs, 410 bu.; Media, 825 bu.; Pleasant, 578 bu.; Crow, 200 bu.; Alpena, 950 bu.; Dale, 850 bu.; Chery, 900 bu.; Marlar, 500 bu.; Viola, none; and Harmony none. Total 6973.

In the spelling contest that occurred on the 17th of March the class from Blaine township made a tie with the class from Franklin township for the first prize, and with the class from Alpena township for the second prize. This was the last of the contests.

The county teachers' institute was held July 9th to 20th, Mr. A. G. Savage, of Kimball again being conductor, assisted by J. W. Harden and S. F. Huntley.

On the 13th of May the Wessington Springs Epworth League, which society had maintained its organization since 1889, celebrated its 5th anniversary, and in July it entertained the League's state convention.

In April the Universalists began holding union Sunday School at the public school building.

Rev. T. Donoghue accepted the position of pastor of the Free Methodist church in November.

At the Wessington Springs Seminary the class of 1894 received its diplomas at the June commencement. The members of the class were Effie and Nellie Reed, Anna S. Hanebuth, Leora Smith, W. A. Baldwin, George H. Grace and Thomas V. Fear.

In October a change was made in the Wessington Springs mail service by the appointment of Mrs. Eva V. Whitney to the position of postmistress.

On the night of Friday, Jan. 12 the old Stephens building, then occupied by R. C. Smith's drug store, was burned. The building and contents were a total loss. Mrs. Anna Hawley, now Mrs. James Weast, who with her family lived in the upper rooms, lost everything.

Mr. J. C. Longland sold his creamery building in Wessington Springs to C. W. Lane, in February, and moved to Artesian.

The stock of merchandise that C. W. Lane purchased of J. H. Vessey in the previous December was sold in March to J. R. Milliken, who moved it to Alpena.

At Waterbury Levi Harris, who had been in mercantile business there a little over a year sold his stock and moved to Miller in Hand county.

At Alpena George Arne began in January to close out his mercantile stock and in February moved to Iowa. It was into the room vacated by Arne that Mr. Milliken moved the stock he purchased from Lane at Wessington Springs.

In June a very enthusiastic Free Methodist camp meeting was held in R. J. Eastmans grove four miles south of Alpena.

In September W. P. Shulz, who had built a machine for drilling artesian wells, began work on a well for P. H. Shultz on the latter's farm in Viola township and in November the well was completed.

The work undertaken by Mr. Shultz was so highly appreciated by the people of the county, that the well machine owned by him, valued at \$4000, has, by tacit consent, been exempted from taxation, and never listed by the assessors.

About the same time Wm. Kline and Pat McDonald contracted with S. H. Albert to put down an artesian well on his farm in Chery township. They completed the well the next summer.

Politics was at the highest pitch of excitement almost continuously from 1892 to 1896. The campaign of 1894 was probably the most personal of any the county ever saw. A Jerauld county humorist said politics was "epidemic;" two years later he pronounced it "endemic." The Independents had changed their name to "Populists" and the contest was between them and the Republicans.

On August 11th the Republicans named a ticket as follows:

Register of Deeds—D. F. Moulton.

Treasurer—F. S. Coggsall.

Auditor—B. B. Blosser.

Sheriff—H. C. Stephens.

Judge—C. D. Brown.

Attorney—S. B. Tidd.

Clerk of Courts—C. G. Smith.

Supt. of Schools—S. F. Huntley.

Surveyor—A. H. West.

Coroner—E. L. Turner.

State Senator—J. R. Milliken, of Jerauld county.

Representative—B. C. Huddle, of Buffalo county.

The Populists held their convention on August 18th and nominated:

Register of Deeds—P. T. Varnum.

Treasurer—M. A. Schaefer.

Auditor—J. A. Paddock.

Sheriff—A. Mercer.

Judge—Wm. Carroll.

Attorney—Daniel Mitchell.

Clerk of Courts—S. S. Vrooman.

Supt. of Schools—George O. Williams.

Surveyor—Chas. Whiffin.

State Senator—C. C. Wright, of Jerauld county.

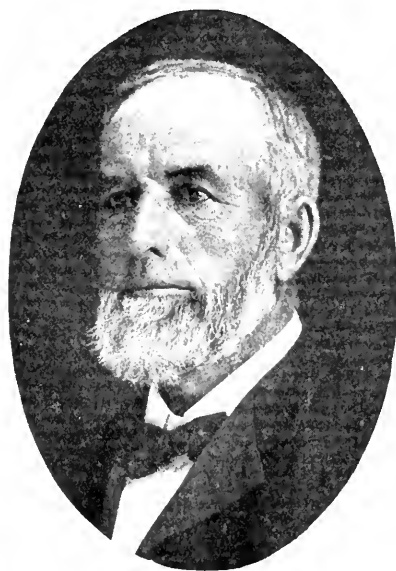
Representative—Henry Klindt, of Buffalo county.



Bank of Alpena.



J. R. Milliken.



P. H. Shultz.

In the first commissioner district the Republicans nominated A. Brandenburg, of Alpena township, and the Populists re-nominated David McDowall, of Franklin.

The election occurred on the 6th of November with the following result:

State Senator—C. C. Wright.

Representative—Henry Klindt.

Register of Deeds—P. T. Varnum.

Treasurer—M. A. Schaefer.

Auditor—J. A. Paddock.

Clerk of Courts—S. S. Vrooman.

County Judge—C. D. Brown.

Sheriff—A. Mercer.

Attorney—Daniel Mitchell.

County Supt.—Geo. O. Williams.

Surveyor—Chas. Whiffin.

Coroner—E. L. Turner.

County Commissioner, 1st Dist.—D. McDowall.

At this election the commissioners on their own motion had submitted two questions to the people: 1st, Shall the county furnish seed grain in the spring of 1895? 2nd, Shall security other than a lien on the crop be required? On the first of these questions a large majority votes "yes;" on the 2nd an equally large majority voted "no."

On the 18th of December, Mr. Schaefer having resigned his position as commissioner from the middle district, P. H. Shultz, of Viola township was appointed to fill the vacancy.

THE DROUTH.

Maybe it is in accord with the immutable law of "survival of the fittest" that nature tests, by disaster and adversity, the fitness of people to inhabit a land they claim as their own. But be that as it may, certain it is that the people of the Dakotas had enough of trials in the 90s.

The year 1893 with its panic in business and consequent shrinkage in values, and low prices, was followed in 1894 by a season of dry weather that in heat and duration had never been equalled before, nor never has been since, in the territory occupied by the two states. Yet it was but a locality in a drouth that extended that year, from the Allegheny to the Rocky mountains, and beyond.

But little snow fell during the winter of 1893-94 and spring came early. A few encouraging showers came in April and the forepart of May, and then stopped. Not enough rain to beat down the dust fell

again until the middle of September. Yet such is the ability of the Dakota soil, because of its formation, to return moisture and resist the effects of drouth, that where crops were properly planted, some fair yields were obtained. Deep plowing was rare, but in 1894 its value was demonstrated. In every instance where the ground was plowed deep and then properly cultivated a fair crop was harvested. In many other fields the grain did not form a kernel. Prices remained the same as in the previous year, for though the supply of farm produce was but about one-half of previous years, in the nation at large, yet the demand for it, then, as always, was measured by the ability to buy. Business depression, closed factories and idle workmen combined to keep the prices down.

In August the people began to inquire about some place to go to get employment. Some suggested one thing, some another. Some prepared to go to Wisconsin and Minnesota, but then came the report of the drouth and terrible forest fires there where over three hundred people had been burned to death in a single county. Senator J. N. Smith who was on a visit to friends in Iowa and Nebraska wrote to the editor of the *Sieve* at Wessington Springs to the effect that the drouth there was as bad as in South Dakota. Mr. Frank Kutil, of Franklin township, started for Missouri, but when he reached Council Bluffs, he met people from that state, Kansas and other localities all wandering about aimlessly in different directions looking for employment. He crossed the river to Omaha, where he was fortunate in finding a sympathetic stranger who helped him to get work until the next summer. Then he received information that the boys had raised a good croop on the home farm and with his wife took the train for South Dakota. They arrived at Woonsocket when the grain along the way was turning to a golden yellow, and was met with the news that a terrific hail storm had swept over the north part of Franklin township the previous night and the crops on his farm were utterly destroyed. But others had need of help and he stayed. Like thousands more he prospered in the years that followed.

People who had gathered herds of cows and hogs and had diversified their farming operations were in better condition to withstand the trials that beset them.

But the people will become accustomed to any condition if long enough continued, and what at first seems unbearable will eventually be borne with some degree of good nature. So people came to look for something to laugh at even in their doleful situation. The droning sound of the sheriff's voice as he read a foreclosure sale of some quarter section of land became so common that it was unnoticed, or if noticed at all was made the subject of jest. On one occasion the sheriff's deputy was reading a sale with no thought of a buyer being present, when some one called

out, "Fifteen dollars for the whole quarter." "You go to thunder," said the deputy, "there ain't to be no interruptions in this sale," and no further notice was taken of the bid.

People danced, played ball, ran horses, joked, talked politics and in many ways helped each other to pass away the days of gloom, knowing that in the general despondency they and all the world were kin.

So the year drew on to winter. People gathered fuel from the prairies and made themselves as comfortable as possible for the mild winter that followed, deriving hope from the fact that one drouth is seldom followed by another.

Chapter 8.

At the re-organization of the board of county commissioners, on the — day of January, 1895, D. B. Paddock was made chairman, but, under a change in the law the new auditor did not take his position until the — day of March.

During the winter many of the farmers had sold what grain they had and at the meeting of the commissioners on the 9th of March the board found that the demand for seed grain had greatly increased. The amount required in the different townships now was:

Blaine, 2540 bu.; Viola, 1595; Anina, 600; Crow Lake, 430; Logan, 785; Franklin, 1770; Wessington Springs, 1195; Media, 795; Pleasant, 1128; Crow, 125; Alpena, 2124; Dale, 700; Chery, 840; Harmony, 660; and Marlar, 770. Total 16,107 bu.

During the first three months of 1895 relief for the poor cost \$165.01: 2nd quarter, \$72.33; 3rd quarter, \$266.55; and the last quarter, \$41.65. Total \$545.57.

In previous winters the snow had drifted over the hill and blocked the road which had been graded on the north side of the ravine west of town, and the county commissioners decided to bridge the ravine and put the road on the south side. The contract was let April 26th to Anton Reindl to build a stone arch similar to the two he had built in the town of Wessington Springs. The contract price was \$295. The grading of the new road was done by W. B. McDonald. The work on both the arch and the grade was accepted by the board at its July meeting.

The claims against the bondsmen arising out of the Williams' defalcation, which had been fought through the circuit and supreme courts of the state were settled at the September meeting of the board by Mary



J. C. Longland.



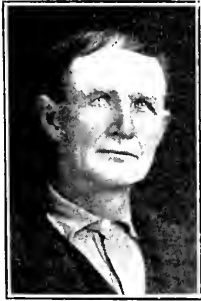
A. V. Hall.



Bert Healey.



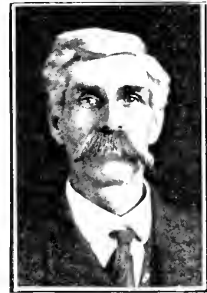
Geo. O. Williams



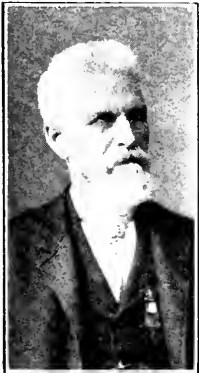
H. C. Lyle.



Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Smith.



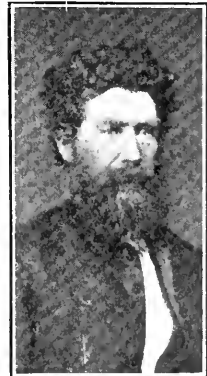
J. W. Snart.



Daniel Mitchell.



Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wright.



Alonzo Converse.

Williams, deeding to the county the SW quarter of 3--107--64 and paying the county \$165.66 in money.

In the west district, as the time approached for the election of a commissioner to succeed Mr. Paddock on the county board, the Populists nominated Mr. George Burger, of Crow township and the Republicans re-nominated Mr. Paddock, who was re-elected.

The county Sunday School convention was held May 28th.

The commencement exercises at the Wessington Springs seminary occurred on the 8th of June, when the following students were graduated: Amy M. R. Amos, Jennie Barrett, Addie Knieriem, and Herbert W. Emery.

The annual teachers' normal institute for the county which was held Sept. 2nd to the 6th, was preceded by a teachers' school, which lasted two weeks, conducted by Supt. Williams and Prof. Jones.

During April, May and June the rains were abundant and the crop prospects excellent, but the afternoon of the 5th of July the wind that had been in the southeast for several days swung into the southwest and became intensely hot. Much injury was done to the late-planted grain, but as a whole the crops in the county were fair. That was the last of the "hot winds" in Jerauld county. But prices of all kinds of farm products were improving and people began to hope for the immediate return of better times.

About May 1st Mr. B. B. Blosser sold the True Republican to W. F. Bancroft and went to Illinois to engage in newspaper work there.

February 1st C. W. Hill retired from the Sieve and was succeeded by W. F. Yege in the editorial management of the paper.

In June a girls baseball club was organized at Wessington Springs, composed of two nines, one of which assumed the name of "Blue Jays," the other, "Bobolinks." For several weeks a good deal of time was devoted to practice, to the great amusement of the girls as well as the "fans." The "Blue Jays" which was called the first nine had as members, Mary Williams, captain, Mary Huntley, Myrtle Price, Millie Price, Aletha Johnson, Eula Wallace, Nellie Mercer, Mathilda Brodkorb and Abbie Whitney. The other nine—the "Bobolinks"—had Eva Whitney, captain, Grace Dunham, Alice Brodkorb, Mabelle Huntley, May Lewis, Minnie Lewis, Cora England, Edith Hill and Mabel Seger. The fame of this club spread through the state and in August the people of Ashton invited the "Blue Jays" to meet a similar club from Faulkton on the Ashton diamond. The invitation was accepted, but when the time came for the game the Misses Abbie Whitney and Mathilda Brodkorb were unable to go and their places were taken by Eva Whitney and Mabelle Huntley, of the "Bobolinks." Of course there was much discussion in

the town as to the propriety of letting the girls go. Nevertheless they went, in charge of G. N. Price. While they were gone but little else was talked about by the people at home. But all grumbling ceased, when, on the afternoon of the game Uncle Charley England received a dispatch from Mary Huntley announcing a victory for the "Blue Jays" by a score of 21 to 13.

In January the Universalists organized a society at Wessington Springs and began holding religious services, led by Mr. James Mosher. The meetings were held at the residences of the members.

A literary and debating society at the Dale Center school house during the winter of 1894-95 attracted considerable attention and was well attended by people in that part of the county.

A Union Sunday School with 33 members was organized in the south-east part of Viola township on March 24th and was well attended through the year.

In the latter part of February the farmers of Viola township held a meeting at which a strong sentiment was expressed in favor of bonding the township to put down a number of artesian wells. But a few days later W. P. Shulz, began drilling a well for Charles Walters, and after it was finished he put down one for Christopher Clodt, and another for Peter Klink. Nothing further was done about bonding the township.

In September Kline and McDonald completed the Albert's well in Chery township.

In the summer of 1895 the Sullivan P. O. was changed from the residence of Mr. W. W. Goodwin in the southern part of Wessington Springs township to the residence of Wm. Webber in Anina.

An old settlers association was organized on June 25th, at a picnic held in the grove at Wessington Springs. F. T. Tofflemier was made president and Geo. O. Williams secretary. A vice-president of the association was elected for each township, Mr. L. G. Wilson was elected historian.

In business affairs several changes were made in the year 1895.

J. R. Milliken sold his Alpena store to H. A. Miller and his son Charles, in February and in October changed his residence to Mitchell. Miller & Son moved the stock of goods in March to Wessington Springs and placed it on one side of the store room occupied by W. L. Arnold. Arnold sold dry goods and Miller sold groceries. In September Arnold began a series of auction sales to close out his business, and in November Millers moved their stock of goods to their farm in Chery township.

The hardware store in Alpena was sold by F. B. Phillips to D. H. Wood and Phillips moved to Oregon.

After Miller & Son moved their goods to Wessington Springs, C. C. Isenluth, who had been running a store at Virgil moved his stock to Alpena.

On December 27th, 1895, a notice was published in the Alpena Journal calling a meeting for December 31st, at Odd Fellows Hall for the purpose of forming a co-operative creamery company. At the time appointed a large number of farmers assembled and took an earnest part in the project. D. H. Wood was made chairman of the meeting and Henry T. Griggs secretary. A preliminary organization was perfected and 23 shares, at \$50 each, were taken. The meeting then adjourned to Jan. 7th. This was one of the most important events in the history of the county. It may properly be said to mark the end of the hard times, in Jerauld county.

The business depression that followed the panic of 1893 continued through 1896. In August wheat was 31c to 36c per bushel; oats 10c; rye 15c; flax 50c. In the hope of bettering their condition the Williams, Miles, Shryock, Hawthorne, Hill, Converse and other families moved into southern states, some going to Mississippi, some to Georgia. In January Mrs. N. C. Hall sold her drug stock in Wessington Springs, which was moved to Carthage, and later she removed to Fitzgerald, Georgia. In the years that followed several of these families returned to Jerauld county, among them being, Miles, McDonald, Williams and Hawthorne.

On the farms the crops were good, but no one could be called prosperous because of the miserably low prices.

In social, religious and educational matters things went on about as usual.

The teachers' institute was held June 29th to July 9th with Prof. Jones of Chamberlain, again conductor, and Miss Conley, of Woonsocket, assistant.

The Sunday School convention was held April 30th.

In October the pastor of the M. E. church reported a membership of 127 in the societies of that denomination in Wessington Springs, Viola and Media townships, with 10 probationers.

On Sept. 18th an agricultural exhibit was held at Wessington Springs, that was well attended from all parts of the county. The vegetable and household exhibits were in a large tent that had been secured for the occasion. A pony race, foot race and ball game were parts of the entertainment. The pony race was won by Marion Corbin's pony "White Stocking." The foot race was won by S. E. Pflaum of Logan township. The ball game was won by the Artesian team over the Wessington Springs nine.

May 1st G. N. Price again took possession of the Waterbury stage route.

The board of county commissioners re-organized January 6th with P. H. Shultz as chairman. Nothing but the merest routine business was done by the board during the year. Not a single special session was held.

The only change among the newspapers of the county was in the Sieve office Feb. 1st, W. F. Yegge retiring to be succeeded by G. W. Backus. Mr. Yegge began publishing "The Local Press" at his farm in Chery township.

In March M. S. Cowman, who had been a resident of Yankton Co., Dakota, since the year 1868 moved up from Gayville, S. D., and rented the Parkhurst ranch, which extended across the Bateman Gulch south of Wessington Springs.

In April the bottom lands along Crow Creek were flooded for a few days by the spring rains.

On June 12th the old settlers of Western Jerauld county had their annual picnic at Waterbury, and on the 23rd the prohibitionists had a political rally at the same place.

Later in the season the old Herring store building was torn down and the material used in the construction of a barn on what was then known as the Martin ranch northeast of Waterbury.

On March 30th the farmers of Logan township met at the Glen post office to discuss the matter of establishing a co-operative creamery at that point.

In February, 1896, D. F. Royer sold to L. N. Loomis his interest in the Bank of Alpena.

May 5th was one of the most important days in the history of the northeast portion of the county, for on that day the Alpena co-operative creamery began doing business.

The first graduating exercises of the Alpena public schools occurred on May 22nd, Supt. Williams presenting the diplomas to a class, composed of Gertrude Pearce, Ethel Davenport, Wena and Carrie Nolt, and Hattie Strain.

In Blaine township an artesian well was completed on the Frank Campbell farm in June by K. S. Starkey.

In Dale township arrangements were made for a series of revival meetings to be held at the Center school house, beginning in December. Rev. Jensen, of Bates, Hand county, was engaged to conduct the meetings. The extremely severe winter prevented the plan being carried out successfully.

As the winter, which began in October, increased in severity and the snow continued to fall and pile up in great drifts, the jack rabbits gath-

ered in droves about the tree claims and groves. It was no unusual thing to see several hundred of them in a single grove. The grass and unhusked corn was deep under the snow and only the trees were left for them to eat. The snow was from ten to twenty feet deep in all groves and this enabled the rabbits to reach the young and tender limbs. On the branches and bark of the trees the animals fed. The damage was great. Hunting parties were formed and large numbers of rabbits killed to save the trees.

In Chery township a series of Demorest medal contests were held during the forepart of the year and created great interest.

In the latter part of October, the Stock P. O. was discontinued for a time because the postmaster resigned and moved away.

The Templeton post office which had in the spring of 1889 been re-located on the northeast corner of section 35 in Harmony township, at the residence of C. G. Smith, postmaster, changed hands in the spring of 1896, by the resignation of Mr. Smith. Mr. J. R. Eddy, the new postmaster, purchased the house in which the office had been kept and moved it a half mile east where it was held until he could get permission from the government to take it to his residence on the east side of section 25 of the same township. The permission was granted in June and the office continued its journey to the new postmaster's home. Mr. Eddy then purchased a stock of goods and opened what has even since been known as the Templeton store.

The commencement exercises of 1896 at the Seminary occurred on June 10th. The class had as members, Mary E. Huntley, F. Loren Kent, Roy Campbell, and Cora Sickler.

About April 1st C. W. Lane sold his Bank of Wessington Springs to H. J. Wallace and L. N. Loomis.

The diploma and bronze medal, won by the Wessington Springs Seminary at the Chicago Worlds' Fair was received by the institution about the 20th of June. These mementos are still preserved among the treasures of the school.

In August a co-operative grain company was formed at Wessington Springs with O. O. England, Prest., and R. S. Vessey, Sec: The purpose of this company was to furnish a grain and coal market in Wessington Springs during the fall and winter. In the following April the company dissolved, having accomplished its purpose. It had purchased over 25,000 bu. of grain and handled 435 tons of coal. During the long, hard winter of 1896-97 the local market for coal afforded by this company relieved distress in hundreds of instances.

On account of failing health Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Freeland resigned from the Seminary faculty in July and moved to California.

About June 25th R. C. Smith opened a drug store at Wessington Springs, and also put in a stock of groceries.

In July Mrs. J. M. Spears leased the Willard hotel to W. H. Rogers.

After the death of Dr. E. L. Turner Wessington Springs was without a physician until Aug. 17, 1896, when Dr. G. S. Eddy located there.

Sept. 15th J. W. Snart, who had been in business in Waterbury for a number of years purchased the J. D. Morse hardware business and building in Wessington Springs.

During the first week in September the Congregationalist society began soliciting subscriptions with which to build a church in Wessington Springs.

On Oct. 29th a strong M. W. A. camp was organized at Wessington Springs.

About Nov. 20th F. M. Brown bought the J. A. Crawford blacksmith shop.

November 27th was a cold, windy day and the air was full of drifting snow. But few people were on the streets of Wessington Springs and those few were hurrying to get in somewhere. In the afternoon one after another of the business men dropped in at Albert & Vessey's store to chat and while away the time. In the course of the conversation the subject of a co-operative creamery was mentioned and preliminary steps were taken to form a company and get the concern in operation. Again, on Dec. 26th, another meeting was held, this time called for the purpose and a temporary organization perfected.

By December 7th the snow had been blown about until it lay in ridges and drifts everywhere. The roads had been worn full of what was termed "chuck-holes" into which sleighs would plunge with great force, sometimes jerking the horses out of the road into the deep snow, or throwing the driver from his seat. The grade over the hills west of Wessington Springs had become badly cut up with these holes. On the day mentioned Geo. Homewood was driving down the grade with a sleigh load of sacks filled with wheat. As the sled pitched into one of the numerous holes some of the sacks were thrown forward on to the whiffletrees. The team became frightened and instantly broke into a run. A moment later George was thrown from the load and the team crashed against the east side of the stone bridge and went over taking the load with them to the bottom of the ravine about twenty feet below. George escaped without injury, but one of the horses was killed by the fall.

In 1896 interest in politics became intense. Every man was a politician. Free silver vs. gold standard was discussed at public meetings in halls, in tents, in the open air. People gathered on the street corners and sidewalks in twos, threes and dozens and asserted or denied many

things about which they knew but little. It was talked in the stores and shops, in the churches and homes, by the road side and in the fields. It was indeed a campaign of education. Men who had graduated from the best colleges in the land, and who could describe nearly every great campaign from the "retreat of the ten thousand," to the surrender of Lee at Appomattox found themselves confronted suddenly with a great national question, involving the civil and commercial history of the world. In a short time nearly all were compelled to admit their ignorance of the subject and then they began to study. Probably at no other time in the history of the world have the voters given such earnest attention to a great public question as was given by the American people to the issues involved in the campaign of 1896.

But two tickets were put in the field in Jerauld county. The populists held their convention on the 12th of September and after recommending the nomination of Jefferson Sickler of Harmony township for state senator, put out the following county ticket:

County Judge—J. H. May.
 Register of Deeds—P. T. Varnum.
 Auditor—J. A. Paddock.
 Treasurer—M. A. Schaefer.
 Sheriff—A. Mercer.
 Clerk—S. S. Vrooman.
 Attorney—J. R. Francis.
 Supt. of Schools—T. L. White.
 Surveyor—O. J. Marshall.
 Coroner—F. T. Tofflemire.

On the same day the commissioners district convention for the 2nd district nominated P. H. Shultz, of Viola township for commissioner.

Later at the legislative convention Mr. Sickler was nominated for the house of representatives.

The Republicans named T. W. Lane, of Crow township, for the senate and O. T. Dye, of Buffalo county, for the house. For the county ticket they named for

Auditor—Ray Barber.
 Register of Deeds—D. F. Moulton.
 Sheriff—John E. White.
 Judge—C. D. Brown.
 Attorney—C. W. McDonald.
 Clerk of Courts—W. F. Bancroft.
 Supt. of Schools—Miss Anna Hauebuth.
 Treasurer—S. B. Tidd.
 Surveyor—H. J. Wallace.

Coroner—Dr. G. S. Eddy.

County Commissioner of 2nd district—H. C. Lyle of Anina township.

The election was held Nov. 3rd and the entire Republican county ticket was defeated except D. F. Moulton, for register of deeds.

J. W. Harden, of Franklin township, was named for secretary of state on the populist ticket, but shortly after receiving the nomination he suffered a stroke of paralysis which prevented his taking an active part in the campaign. Mr. Harden was one of the ablest debaters in the state and but for his unfortunate illness would probably have been elected.

Chapter 9.

The winter which began Oct. 29, 1896, held with almost unbroken vigor until the first of April, 1897, the thermometer registering 17 below zero on the 17th of March.

During the winter there had been storms besides many days that were unpleasant. Many animals were lost for want of hay that was buried under the great drifts of snow. In many cases the stacks of hay were buried and not found until the snow melted in the spring. Then many of the stacks were surrounded by water and ruined. As the snow melted every rivulet became a river in size. The trains of the James River division of the C. M. & St. P. were abandoned for several weeks. At Alpena the mail was brought from Woonsocket on a hand car run by business men of the place. The mail and passengers from Woonsocket to Wessington Springs were carried across the Firesteel in a boat. Mr. Geo. Backus, publisher of the *Sieve* at Wessington Springs, printed his issue for April 2nd on any kind of paper he could get for the purpose, because his ready-prints could not be brought over the Firesteel. The April meeting of the county commissioners was postponed because the high water rendered the roads impassable.

With the new year prices of farm products and other commodities began to show an upward tendency. In March wheat was bringing 65c, oats 15c, and corn 20c; by the close of the year wheat had arisen to 70c per bushel.

On January 6th, 1897, the board of county commissioners organized for the year by electing David McDowall chairman. During the summer two bridges were built across Sand Creek in Alpena township by the county, one on the line between sections 18 and 19 and the other between sections 20 and 21.

At the meeting of the commissioners in September, the annual estimate for county expenses for the ensuing year was made at \$8502.10.

On November 16th and 17th a two-days woman's suffrage convention was held at Wessington Springs. This was a county affair, papers being read and addresses made by residents of the county. Only one address being made by a non-resident speaker.

In July F. M. Steere moved into the county with 1600 head of sheep and rented the S. H. Albert farm and the school section in Wessington Springs township.

On August 15th the county court house was struck by lightning. The bolt hit the flag staff that stood on the center of the roof and went through the lower floor of the building in two rooms but made no marks except a small hole in the center of the state attorney's office, and a little splintering of the floor in the office of the state attorney and county superintendent. The wires that held up the stove pipes in these two rooms were melted. It was on Sunday and no one was in the building. Not a shingle on the roof was injured, although the flag-staff was shattered.

The old settlers picnic for the western part of Jerauld county was again held at Waterbury, on the 11th of June.

At the election held in November but one county officer was elected and that was a commissioner from the first district. The populists nominated Mr. F. A. Olin, of Blaine township, and the Republicans named J. E. Reynolds of Franklin. But little interest was taken in the election. But little more than half of the populist vote was pooled in the four townships, otherwise their candidate would have been elected.

At the close of the spring term of the public school at Alpena Prof. O. W. Coursey presented diplomas to the graduating class in which were Misses Minnie Yegge, Effie Barber, Fannie Pogne, Lottie Pogne, May Royer and Mr. John Knolt.

The county normal institute was held July 5th to 15th at Wessington Springs, Prof. J. W. Jones, jr., being the conductor, assisted by Geo. O. Williams and O. W. Coursey, principal of the Alpena school.

A few days after the close of the county institute Mr. Coursey opened a normal school at Alpena, which he conducted until the 1st of September.

One of the great events of the year in the county was the G. A. R. district encampment which was held at Wessington Springs on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of July.

In January Bert Healey, who had for several years been proprietor of a grocery store at Waterbury opened a harness shop in J. W. Snart's hardware store. In July Mr. Healey moved his building and stock from Waterbury to Wessington Springs and started what he afterward devel-



The "Blue Jays."



The Bobolinks.

oped into one of the most complete racket stores in this part of the state. This ended the commercial life of the old town of Waterbury.

Wessington Springs seems to have had a hard time of it in getting a co-operative creamery established. Another meeting to discuss the subject was held on the 14th of July, but with no immediate results.

In Logan township the creamery project was pushed and by the close of the year arrangements had been completed for the establishment of a strictly modern creamery early in the succeeding spring. The foundation for the building was finished during the forepart of December, and the building material purchased and during the winter placed on the ground at Glen. The mason work for the structure was done by Anton Reindl of Crow Lake township.

In August, 1897, J. W. Snart having resigned the position of postmaster at Waterbury, Mr. W. E. Waterbury was appointed to the position. Mr. Snart had held the position since the 17th day of March, 1886.

At Alpena Richard Davenport succeeded Geo. D. Canon as postmaster on May 8th.

Mr. A. F. Smith purchased the mercantile business of Manwaring Bros., taking possession Dec. 1st.

In Viola township the German church society began work on the foundation of their church building in December.

The Wessington Springs Seminary graduated the class of 1897 on the 8th day of June. The members were Myrtle G. Price, Abbie F. Whitney, Esther V. Danburg, Lucy A. Hartman, Vivian Hill, William F. Adabar, Simeon J. Whitney and Parker F. Whitney.

During the year 1897 F. M. Brown and N. P. Peterson worked at the blacksmith business as partners in Wessington Springs.

About the middle of June R. C. Smith sold his drug and grocery stock to Charles Jewell and M. A. Schaefer.

In the spring Mr. R. Vanderveen succeeded to the business of the Co-operative Grain Co. at Wessington Springs and added a stock of lumber. About the same time W. N. Hill, also began handling grain, coal and lumber.

In July C. N. Hall purchased the stock of confectionery of W. F. Taylor.

In the same month a camp of Sons of Veterans was established in Wessington Springs.

About the 1st of October C. S. Jacobs began work at the harness business in the building built by Jas. F. Ford in 1883. This is now managed by Mr. Jacobs' son. C. L. Jacobs in another building.

The Free Methodist conference of the state was held at Wessington Springs, beginning Oct. 6th.

Dr. G. S. Eddy changed his location in October from Wessington Springs to Anaheim, California, and the county seat was again without a physician.

On November 27th the Universalists, who had been holding their services in the school house, held a meeting to mature their plans for building a church. A location committee was appointed and the taking of subscriptions carried on.

During the year the Wessington Springs ball nine played a number of games with teams from surrounding towns and made a record of which the community was very proud. The team attended the tournament at Kimball and won the first prize, defeating the club from Plankinton and also the one from Gann Valley.

In the latter part of April W. H. Rogers closed the Willard Hotel at Wessington Springs and the building was then rented by Wm. Brodkorb, who took possession about the first of May.

Chapter 10.

1898. The new board of county commissioners was organized on January 3rd by the election of D. B. Paddock, of the third district, chairman.

Some idea of the rental value of Jerauld county wild land at this time may be obtained from the fact that 240 acres owned by the county in sections 27 and 28 in Media township were leased by the board to J. W. Barnum in April for a term of three years at five dollars per annum. There seemed to be no basis from which to fix values of any kind of property. Wheat, in March, sold at 80 cents per bushel and soon after went to \$1.00, but in September it was selling at 45c to 50c. A horse for a cow was considered a good trade. Yet in the month of February the county treasurer collected \$10,000 in taxes, the largest sum ever collected in one month up to that time, in the history of the county. The assessors' returns from the various townships reported the total valuation of real and personal property in the county at \$1,001,339. Upon this amount the county board, in September, levied a tax of, county fund, 7 mills; bridge fund, 2 mills; sinking fund, 2 mills; general county fund, 2 mills; state tax, 3 mills; making a total of 16 mills. The county debt was rapidly decreasing and warrants rose to 98 cents on the dollar. At the September meeting the county commissioners transferred \$1000 from the bridge fund to the general county fund.

In the mail service of the county some changes were made during the year. The contracts for carrying the mail over the different routes leading from Wessington Springs were let in January, to take effect the first of July. The route to Woonsocket, daily, was let to Wm. Keene at \$120 per year; to Miller, N. J. Tutts, twice a week, \$386; to Crow Lake, twice a week, G. Cowles, \$194.59; to Waterbury, daily, G. Cowles, \$414.59; to Mount Vernon, twice a week, J. E. Franklin, \$308.07. Mr. Franklin failed to meet the requirements of his contract on the first of July and G. N. Price continued the service until the first of September, when Andrew Mercer took the route, which had been changed from Mt. Vernon to Mitchell. A new route was established between Crow Lake and Glen with H. P. Will of Logan township, carrier.

On October 1st W. F. Bancroft succeeded Mrs. Eva Whitney as post-master in the Wessington Springs office.

The only change among the newspapers of the county in the year 1898 was at Alpena, where Mr. Lou Knowles succeeded H. T. Griggs, Sept. 9th as publisher of the Journal.

The county teachers' institute was held at the Seminary chapel in Wessington Springs June 13th to 18th, with A. H. Avery, of Woonsocket, conductor, and Geo. O. Williams and Miss White as assistants.

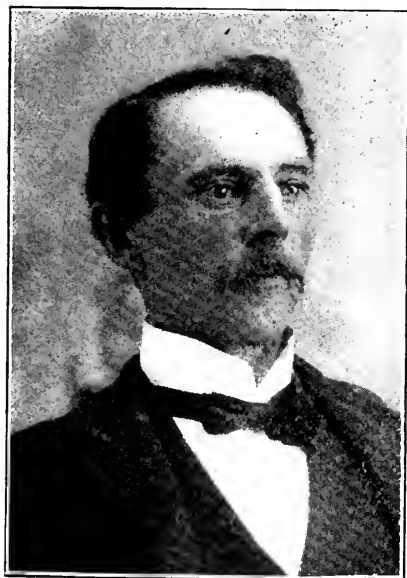
The old settlers' picnic was held at the farm of Geo. W. Burger in Crow township on June 24.

During the year the Alpena co-operative creamery had been a great success. The manager's report showed that from Dec. 1st, 1897 to Dec. 1, 1898, the creamery had taken in 1,149,618 pounds of milk, made 50,364 pounds of butter, for which it had received \$7,853.44 and paid to its patrons \$6,087.07. The farmers elevator company had been equally successful and during the season shipped fifty cars of grain and paid to its patrons \$16,500.

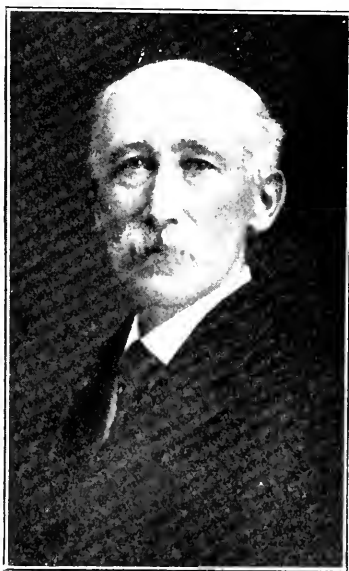
At Wessington Springs, during the fourteen months that followed the meeting at Albert & Vessey's store on the 27th of November, 1896, Geo. W. Backus, editor of the Sieve, continually agitated the subject of establishing a creamery at that place. At length he succeeded in getting the business men sufficiently interested to form an organization, and in January and February, 1898, arrangements were completed for building and equipping a co-operative creamery at Wessington Springs, with a capital stock of \$8,000.00. The first regular meeting of the stock holders was held February 10, 1898, when Chas. Walters, C. S. Barber, H. C. Lyle, Richard Vanderveen, W. H. McMillan, C. Knudson and Geo. Homewood were made directors, T. L. White, manager, H. J. Wallace, treasurer, and C. S. Barber, president. On the 22nd of February Mr. White resigned as manager and R. Vanderveen was elected to the



Second Graduating Class at Alpena.



T. L. White.



C. S. Jacobs.

vacancy. Mr. Vanderveen resigned as director, and Geo. R. Bateman was put in his place. The contract for putting up the building was made with E. L. Smith. The total cost of the plant when completed was \$2,679.21. The institution was opened for business on the 16th day of May.

At Glen P. O., in Logan township, the people pushed forward their creamery project with a good deal of energy and by the first of April the plans were all completed and they were waiting for warmer weather to commence operations. Mr. T. A. Butterfield, of Burt, Iowa, was employed as butter-maker, and on May 3rd the first milk was received.

In March a creamery skimming station was established at Campbell's artesian well in Blaine township with Wm. Brownell as manager. It was run in connection with the Woonsocket creamery.

In January, 1898, R. S. Vessey, of Wessington Springs and J. D. Chamberlain, of Alpena, began a move to get a telephone line extended from Woonsocket to both the Jeranld county towns, but the plan was not put in operation until the next year.

The year 1898 saw young cattle advance to prices that bordered on the ridiculous. It was not uncommon to see yearling animals sell for \$23 to \$28 per head. Large numbers of steers were brought into the country and sold to farmers, on contract, and at prices that almost rendered a profitable deal impossible. Whole train loads at a time were brought into Alpena and contracted, 50 to 100 in a bunch to any one who could get control of range enough for grazing. Before winter set in thousands of animals were delivered back to the companies from whom they had been obtained, but not often with any profit to the man who had cared for the cattle during the summer months. From Alpena, alone, 165 cars of cattle were shipped to Sioux City and other markets. The same business was continued during the succeeding two years.

During the forepart of the year several literary societies were conducted in the county districts. In Chery township these entertainments took the form of "spelling schools." At the Webber school in Anina township, and also in Blaine township the societies were for the purposes of debates and recitations. In Alpena township at the Sand Creek school house a night school for the study of German language was held every Monday and Tuesday evening. At Wessington Springs a literary society was organized that was continued during several winters.

In the church circles of the county there was considerable activity during the year. In Viola township the German M. E. building was completed by the middle of February and a few weeks later a fine bell was sending forth its tones from the belfry arch. The building was dedicated June 12th, Rev. Hein pastor. The dedicatory sermon was by Rev. Kaste,

of Redfield, presiding elder, and sermons were also preached by Rev. C. Schulz, of Charles City, Iowa, and Dr. McLean. The congregation derived great satisfaction from the fact that the building was dedicated free of debt. On the 16th of the following October Rev. Hein was succeeded as pastor by Rev. Westphal.

At Alpena a ladies aid society was organized in connection with the M. E. church, Dec. 30th, with Mrs. Davenport, president. The charter members were Mrs. R. Davenport, Mrs. A. F. Smith, Mrs. R. H. Stokes, Mrs. T. Welch, Mrs. Alice Smith, Mrs. T. A. Thompson and Mrs. R. T. Blank.

In Marlar township Sabbath School was re-organized on March 6th at school house No. 1.

On March 26th the Free Methodist church formed a new conference district, composed of the Alpena, Bates, Sweetland and Wessington Springs circuits.

On March 1st W. W. Smith located at Wessington Springs and remained the local physician for several years.

A fire company was organized at Wessington Springs in April with W. F. Bancroft as chief. This was the first organized fire company in the county.

May 30th, Decoration Day, had from the first organization of the G. A. R. in the county been duly observed at Alpena, Waterbury and Wessington Springs. But up to this time Alpena had felt the want of a suitable place upon which to raise the national colors. It was therefore determined to erect a flag pole in the main street of the village. A pole was prepared and on the morning of Decoration Day it was put in place and the flag hung at halfmast in honor of the nation's hero dead.

The Congregationalists and the Universalists each began building a foundation for a church at Wessington Springs in July. The former laid the cornerstone of their edifice on July 23rd, but did not begin work on the superstructure until in September. The Universalists had completed their building and held the first services therein on Nov. 27th. The Congregationalists held watch meeting in their new church Dec. 31st.

About the 15th of February L. N. Loomis sold his interest in the Bank of Wessington Springs to H. J. Wallace, who took his son D. C. Wallace into the business, the banking firm being thereafter known as H. J. Wallace & Son.

The commencement exercises of the Wessington Springs Seminary for the class of 1898 were held on June 7th. Diplomas were granted to Edith H. Hill, Fannie C. Miller, Cora I. Horsley, Fred N. Dunham,

Sadie E. Dixon, Edith E. Whitney, Edith J. Vrooman, Mabelle E. Huntley, Anton P. Matson and Della L. Harlow.

May 21st a meeting was held at Woodburn Hall to organize a military company to be in readiness for a further call for soldiers in case one should be made for service in the war with Spain, which had been declared in April. As a result of this meeting a company was formed with 51 members, T. L. White, captain; Criss Spears, 1st Lieutenant and Wm. Brodkorb, 2nd Lieutenant.

At Alpena O. W. Coursey resigned his position in the public school and accompanied by Jerry Turman, went to Sioux Falls as soon as the president issued the call for troops, and became members of the 1st South Dakota Regiment, which rendered distinguished service in the Philippine Islands.

Although neither of the villages in Jerauld county celebrated the national holiday, yet the day was generally observed. At Crow Lake the people gathered at the residence of Dr. S. H. Melcher for a picnic celebration. In Viola township a large crowd gathered at the P. H. Shultz homestead and enjoyed a picnic celebration. The same observance of the day occurred in Harmony township at the residence of Eugene Coleman. At Glen, in Logan township, a large concourse assembled and enjoyed races, ball games and other sports. In Franklin township a picnic was held at the residence of J. W. Harden. At Wessington Springs two celebrations were in progress at the same time. The Universalists had a large tent near the grove in which patriotic speeches were made, followed by a picnic dinner while a number of Sabbath schools united in a celebration in the Bateman Gulch south of town. The day passed with no extreme manifestation of enthusiasm until the stage driver in the evening brought the news of the naval victory at Santiago. Then the bonfires flamed, the anvils roared, the rockets pierced the sky and the great event was celebrated as fully as it was possible to do in a little country village in the heart of the great plains.

On June 21st, 22nd and 23rd the Epworth League held a sub-district convention at Wessington Springs.

Sept. 1st Andrew Mercer retired from the Woodburn House at Wessington Springs and was succeeded by J. J. Hillis of Alpena.

F. M. Brown purchased of Wm. Kline his blacksmith shop, and barn Sept. 10th. This building Mr. Brown afterward enlarged and made into the livery barn that now stands on the east side of 2nd street north of Vessey Bros. store.

About the 15th of October R. M. McNeil bought the J. W. Snart hardware store. A few days later Bert Healey moved his harness shop and notion goods to a small building he had moved from Waterbury to

Wessington Springs and placed it on the south side of Main Street west of 2nd street.

In politics the situation began early in the season to show symptoms of change. In September both parties put tickets in the field. The populist ticket was as follows:

Senator—J. M. Spears.

Representative—G. S. Nelson.

Register of Deeds—Gus Johnson.

Treasurer—T. L. White.

Sheriff—Pat McDonald.

Auditor—Wm. Zink.

Clerk of Courts—S. S. Vrooman.

Judge—J. H. May.

Attorney—J. R. Francis.

County Superintendent—Geo. O. Williams.

Coroner—W. W. Smith.

Surveyor—O. J. Marshall.

County Com., 3rd district.—B. R. Shimp.

The Republican ticket named for

Senator—L. N. Loomis.

Representative—J. V. Drips.

Treasurer—F. S. Coggsall.

Auditor—D. B. Paddock.

Register of Deeds—D. F. Moulton.

Sheriff—John E. White.

Clerk of Courts—W. F. Taylor.

Attorney—C. W. McDonald.

County Supt. E. H. Wood.

Judge—C. D. Brown.

Coroner—W. W. Smith.

Surveyor—H. J. Wallace.

County Com., 3rd Dist.—M. A. Shaw.

The election was held on the 8th of November with the following result:

Senator—L. N. Loomis.

Representative—G. S. Nelson.

Treasurer—T. L. White.

Auditor—Wm. Zink.

Register of Deeds—D. F. Moulton.

Sheriff—Pat McDonald.

County Supt.—E. H. Wood.

Attorney—C. W. McDonald.

Clerk of Courts—W. F. Taylor.

Judge—C. D. Brown.

Coroner—W. W. Smith.

Surveyor—H. J. Wallace.

County Commissioner—M. A. Shaw.

Equal suffrage, which was submitted at this election, carried the county by 218 to 150.

Dispensary Liquor Law carried the county by 243 to 132.

Initiative and Referendum carried the county by 270 to 96.

Chapter II.

The county commissioners did little but routine work in the year 1899. During that time Treasurer T. L. White called in all the outstanding warrants, and as there were no bonds outstanding the county began doing business on a cash basis. The board re-organized on the 7th of January by electing P. H. Shultz, of the 2nd commissioner district, chairman.

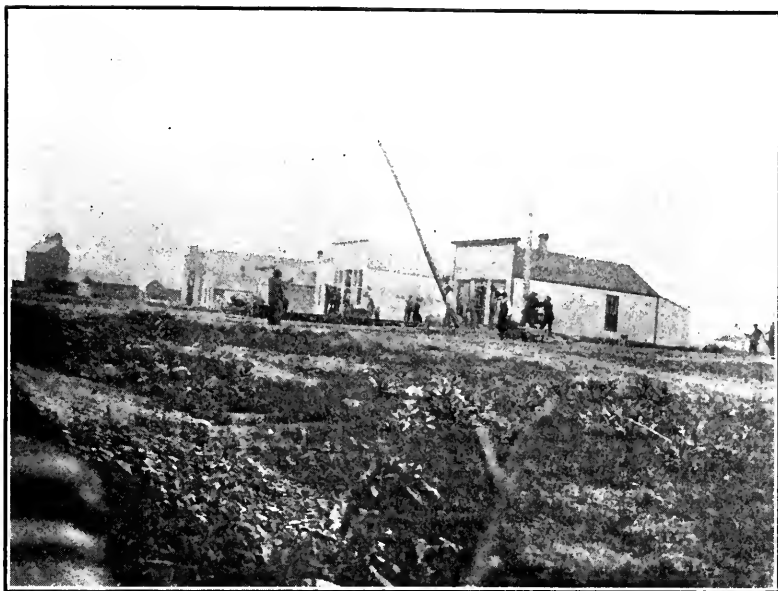
April 4th the board granted to the Dakota Southern Telephone Co. the right to set telephone poles on the edges of the highways of the county, but not so as to obstruct the use of the public roads. On April 10th the work of setting poles for the line from Woonsocket to Wessington Springs commenced and was completed in August.

At a special meeting the forepart of May the commissioners appropriated \$600 to be loaned to people who had suffered loss by the terrible prairie fires that raged during the latter part of April, and later appropriated \$100 to help pay the expense of bringing the 1st South Dakota Regiment home from San Francisco.

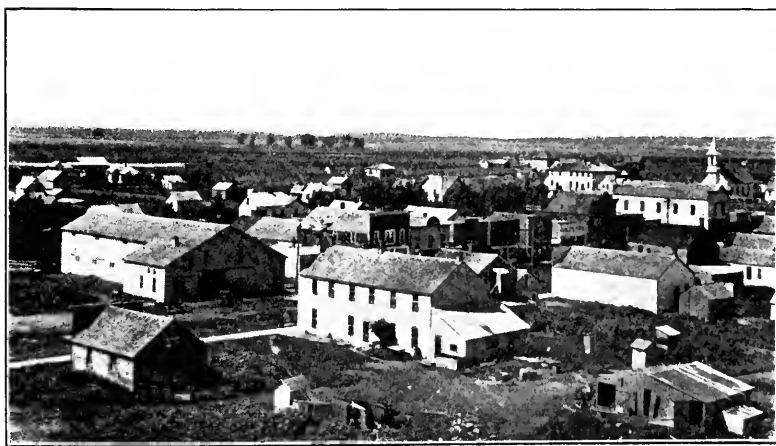
During the year the Jerauld county board arranged with the commissioners of Brule county to put in a fifty-four foot steel bridge across Smith Creek on the south line of Logan township to cost \$100, each county paying one half the expense. The bridge was completed in November.

On Sept. 5th the board made the lowest tax levy in the history of the county as follows: State tax 2 and two-fifths mills; county general, 6 mills; bridge fund, 1 mill; sinking fund, 1 mill.

On April 7th and again on Oct. 7th the board transferred \$1000 from the bridge fund to the county general fund.



Raising the Flag Pole in Alpena 1898.



Alpena 1908.

Politics attracted but little attention in 1899 as only a county commissioner from the 2nd district was to be elected. The populists re-nominated P. H. Shultz of Viola township and the republicans named John Grant of Wessington Springs township. Mr. Shultz was re-elected.

The county teachers' institute began August 21st and continued two weeks.

June 13th the old settlers picnic was held at the residence of O. O. England in Harmony township.

Among the newspapers of the county two changes were made during the year. J. W. Sheppard succeeding G. W. Backus in the editorial management of the Sieve on February 10th, and E. M. Cochran following Lou Knowles on the Alpena Journal Dec. 29th.

As the flocks of sheep enabled many settlers to retain their home during the hard times, so the creameries slowly but surely started the farming communities on the way to prosperity. A few cows living on the prairie grass, furnished milk that, sold to a creamery, enabled the farmer to keep up his bills at the local store and meet his small necessary cash outlay. All through the year 1899 grain prices continued low, wheat about 50 cents, and corn 15 to 20 cents per bushel. In December wheat at Alpena was selling at 49 cents per bushel, while a dollar would only purchase sixteen pounds of sugar. Wages of all kinds were correspondingly low. The average teacher's wages for the county including the village schools was but \$29 per month. The cattle business reached its highest point that year (1899), over 4000 head being contracted to farmers at Alpena alone between January 1st and April 1st. But while the cattle business was speculative and unprofitable, in the way it was conducted, dairying was a legitimate part of farm industry.

The Alpena and Glen creameries were kept in operation all through the winter of 1898-99, but the one at Wessington Springs was closed during the cold season. A skimming station was established at Charles Walter's artesian well in Viola township and another at Albert's artesian well in Chery township, both being in connection with the Wessington Springs creamery, and both run by well power.

On January 16th A. M. Slocum opened a photograph gallery at Wessington Springs. This was the first permanent studio in the county.

Among the mail carriers some changes were made during the year. About April 15th James Weast took the route from Wessington Springs to Waterbury. In June Howard Pope became proprietor of the Woonsocket stage line, but sold it to W. V. Dixon about August 15th.

Sometime in the forepart of May Wm. Brodtkorb returned to his grocery business at the corner of Main and 3rd streets, and was succeeded in the Willard Hotel by his son Herman. About the first of July the

hotel was leased to J. J. Hillis, who ran it in connection with the Woodburn House. At this time Herman Brodkorb purchased his father's grocery business, and on the evening of the 4th of July Wm. Brodkorb, Sr., started on a trip to his Fatherland with no definite plans as to when he would return. He was absent from Wessington Springs just ten weeks.

Both the Congregational and Universalist churches were dedicated this year, the former on the 18th of October, and the latter on the 18th of June.

The class of 1899 was graduated from the Seminary June 21st. The members were James H. Hall, Eva J. Whitney, Lawrence A. Pinard, J. Irving McNeil, Edna R. Vroomann and W. A. Harden.

By this time the Wessington Springs public school had grown until the school building erected by E. L. Smith in 1884 was too small to accommodate the number of pupils. On the 30th of August the people voted to build another and larger school house and bonds were issued for that purpose. The new house was built on the east side of 3rd street opposite the Universalist church, by Mr. C. P. Christensen, and the school took possession of it Dec. 18th. The old school house was sold for \$151 to the German Lutheran church of Alpena and Franklin townships, who moved and used it for religious purposes. After the founding of the town of Lane the old school house was moved to that place, where it is still in use as a church.

On the 2nd of September the whole county was shocked and grieved by the sudden death of H. J. Wallace, the Wessington Springs banker. After the death of Mr. Wallace the bank was continued by his son D. C. Wallace, until September 20th, when the institution was purchased by R. S. Vessey, J. H. Woodburn and F. G. Vessey.

The principal celebrations in the county on the 4th of July were at Glen, in Logan township, and at Chas. Walter's residence in Viola.

At Alpena J. D. Chamberlain engaged in the farm implement business and in the course of the year put up a warehouse for his stock of machinery and later put up another building in which he placed a stock of furniture. That was the beginning of the furniture business in Alpena. In November he sold a half interest in the machinery business to Herman Scheel.

July 15th was a "red letter" day for Alpena school township. In March the treasurer had called in all the outstanding school warrants, and on this day in July the board had obtained possession of all school township bonds and with appropriate ceremony all the old warrants and bonds were publicly burned. The school township was free from debt.

In February a series of revival meetings were held by Rev. T. Donoghue at the Eastman school house in the southern part of Alpena township.

In Dale township Mr. Ernest Schmidt had employed W. P. Shulz to put down an artesian well which was completed in November.

Sometime in April Dr. J. E. Shull opened an office in Alpena and was soon after joined by his partner Dr. Bullock. The firm continued until about Aug. 1st, when Dr. Bullock retired from the practice in Alpena.

Chapter 12.

(1900).

The year that closed the 19th century began in an exceedingly mild and open winter. No snow and but little cold weather. Several games of baseball were played in different parts of the county during January and February. In many of the business houses the fires were allowed to go out and the outer doors left open. No one in Jerauld county had a sleigh ride that winter.

The County commissioners reorganized January 2nd by electing J. E. Reynolds, of the first district, as chairman. In August Mr. Reynolds was taken with a very severe attack of typhoid fever that incapacitated him for any further service on the board.

In the forepart of January the board made an agreement with R. S. Vessey, manager of the Dakota Southern Telephone Company, to put a 'phone in the county treasurer's office, to be used by all county officials and the public in the village of Wessington Springs, for a rental of \$20 per year.

At Alpena the first farmers institute in the county, under the auspices of the state, was held January 30th and 31st.

On May 14th Joseph Ponsford was given a contract for the construction of a bridge across Crow Creek in Crow township. The work was completed in time to be accepted by the county commissioners and paid for at the meeting in September.

The county commissioners on Oct. 3rd, acting under a law, the enactment of which had been secured by Senator Loomis in 1898, reduced the salary of the county attorney for the next two years to \$100 per year.

About three o'clock in the morning of October 13, fire was discovered in the county jail and the building was soon destroyed. The origin of the fire, though strongly suspected, was never certainly known.



Robt. E. Dye.



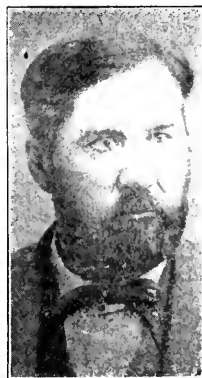
Dr. J. E. Shull.



L. N. Loomis.



Joseph H. May.



O. O. England.

The assessors' returns from the various townships gave the assessed valuation of all the real estate and personal property of the county in 1900 at \$1,102,536. The tax levy for the years was as follows: State 2 seven-tenths mills; county 3 mills; bridge five-tenths mills; insane 1 mill.

The total number of school children in the county at this time was 909; school houses, 57, and the cost of schools, \$25,200.57.

The county teachers' institute began June 18th and continued two weeks with Prof. Doderer as conductor.

The old settlers' picnic was held June 26th at Foster Grove in Pleasant township, on section five.

During the year the prices of farm produce remained low, but land values began to show a decided advance. In the east part of the county several quarter sections were sold at from \$800 to \$1,500 per quarter. At this time the only real estate man in the county actively engaged in the business, was O. J. Marshall, who was also a bonded abstractor.

Late in the autumn a disease, known as the cornstalk disease, broke out among the farm herds of cattle, all over the northwestern states. In Jerauld county the loss was quite heavy.

August 10th the governor appointed Mr. N. M. Thompson of Alpena game warden for Jerauld county to serve one year.

Business changes were few in the county during the year 1900, and but few improvements of any kind were made. In Chery township Wm. Kline, assisted by W. P. Shulz, completed his artesian well about Dec. 1st and in Marlar Dr. J. E. Shull began the task of drilling a similar well on his ranch in the northeast part of the township. This last effort continued for many months and was finally abandoned after the drill had been driven to a depth of over 1,725 feet.

In Chery Township a new school house was built to replace the one that had been destroyed by fire in April, 1899.

In the mail service of the county but little change was made. The Sullivan P. O. in Anina Township was discontinued. In the west part of the county a short star route was established from Waterbury to Gann Valley with Mark Abermathy as mail carrier. April 1st A. M. Slocum became mail carrier on the Wessington Springs-Waterbury route.

The Woodburn House, at Wessington Springs, was purchased by Carl Hall Feb. 5th, and the name changed to "The Carlton House," Hall retained charge of the hotel until April 17th, when Miss Chandler and her mother rented it and continued its management until the forepart of Sept., when it passed into the hands of A. C. Parfitt. About Dec. 15th A. J. Evans became landlord of the Carlton House and remained in charge of it for several months.

On February 23rd, 1900, J. W. Sheppard retired from the editorial management of "The Sieve" and was succeeded by A. J. Evans.

About the first of March Mr. O. O. England purchased a carload of furniture, and with his son and daughter, G. T. England, and M. Della England, opened a furniture store in a building erected by Joseph Weibold on the southwest corner of Main and Third streets. This was the beginning of the furniture and undertaking business in Wessington Springs which with careful management has now become large and profitable.

Sometime in January Nate Spears bought the confectionery business of Howard Pope and for a short time thereafter ran it in connection with his barber shop.

On May 7th C. W. England sold to D. B. Olson his tobacco and confectionery business and retired from business in Jerauld county.

A district encampment of the G. A. R. occurred at Wessington Springs on July 3rd, 4th and 5th.

At that time there were standing on the south side of Main Street between 2nd and 3rd streets the old Thayer Bank building, occupied by C. W. McDonald, Bert Healey's notion store, M. A. Schafer's drug and grocery store and two small office buildings. Before daylight on the morning of the 6th of July fire broke out in the Schaefer building. It with all the other buildings in the row were destroyed. A few months later E. L. Smith and O. J. Marshall put up a double store building on the ground where the burned structures had stood. Into one room of the new building Mr. Healey again opened a notion store on Dec. 1st, 1900, and about the same time Mr. Bancroft moved the post office and the True Republican printing office into the other room.

The Willard Hotel was rented about the 15th of July by Mrs. Coffin, who occupied it during the ensuing year.

The state conference of the Free Methodist Church was held at Wessington Springs Oct. 3rd to 7th.

About November 1st O. O. England sold his hardware store building and stock to Wm. Kennedy and son, Alexander.

December 1st Howard Pope and Mr. Mennill opened a blacksmith and woodwork shop in a building then standing on the south side of Main street east of the Vessey store. They set up a feed mill, which was run with power furnished by a geared windmill.

At Alpena J. D. Chamberlain opened a hardware store with a stock he had obtained in a real estate deal. The D. H. Wood hardware store was sold by that gentleman on July 16th to Grant Anderson, who has continued the business to the present time.

On June 16th Andrew Mercer purchased of John Woods the Alpena meat market.

At 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening, Dec. 5th, 1900, the first ring of a telephone bell was heard in Alpena and the village was then in close touch with all the surrounding towns.

In the fall of the year the Sioux Falls brewing company attempted to establish a wholesale and retail liquor store in Alpena, but the concern was of short duration.

The Wessington Springs school house which had been purchased for church purpose by the Ev. Luth. Zion Church and moved to the south part of Alpena Township, was dedicated May 13th, 1900, with Rev. Lack as pastor.

Rev. R. A. Brough was engaged as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Alpena, beginning his work on May 13th. The conference appointee for the M. E. Church, made in October, was Rev. W. B. Stewart.

The year 1900 being the time for a presidential election the Republicans of Jerauld County hoped to recover some more of the political field that had so long been occupied by their opponents. The election, though lacking much of the bitterness that had characterized former campaigns, was hotly contested for the more important offices. The tickets placed in nomination were as follows:

Republican:

Senator—L. N. Loomis.
 Representative—A. J. Woledge.
 Treasurer—Geo. R. Bateman.
 Auditor—W. H. McMillan.
 Register of Deeds—W. B. Wilson.
 Attorney—N. J. Dunham.
 Sheriff—Wm. Brodkorb.
 Judge—C. W. McDonald.
 Clerk of Courts—W. F. Taylor.
 County Supt.—E. H. Wood.
 Coroner—Dr. J. E. Shull.
 Commissioner, 1st Dist.—Gus. A. Newman.

Populists:

Senator—Jefferson Sickler.
 Representative—G. S. Nelson.
 Treasurer—T. L. White.
 Auditor—Wm. Zuik.
 Register of Deeds—Wesley Brownell.

Sheriff—Chas. A. Knudson.

Clerk of Courts—S. S. Vrooman.

Judge—Daniel Mitchell.

County Supt.—Abbie Whitney.

Attorney—John R. Francis.

Coroner—J. E. Shull.

County Com., 1st Dist.—R. J. Tracy.

The election occurred on Nov. 6th, with the result that the Populists retained the offices of Treasurer, Auditor, Sheriff and Attorney. The balance of the places were filled by the Republicans. The Prohibitionists had nominated a full legislative and county ticket but practically dropped the contest in the early part of the campaign.

Chapter 13.

(1901).

With the beginning of the century an era of business activity set in that, probably, has never been equaled. In the Dakotas this was most noticable in the rapid selling of real estate. Land prices doubled and doubled again, before people began to realize that the long deferred "boom" had struck the great prairie country. Men who had complained that they were "land poor" suddenly found themselves rich beyond their most optimistic dreams. But few people realize how much of this was due to the real estate men. Every village and city became the headquarters of from two to a dozen dealers in South Dakota land. Prior to 1901 nearly all the real estate business of the county had been done by O. J. Marshall of Wessington Springs; but during that year D. C. Wallace, located at Alpena, and F. M. Steere, at Wessington Springs, formed a partnership in the real estate business and during the year sold an immense acreage to buyers from other states. John Chamberlain, L. N. Loomis and Ray Barber, all of Alpena, engaged actively in the business at that point, while D. F. Moulton and R. S. Vessey each had an office at the county seat. Later the National Land Co. opened office at Alpena with L. Elliott and A. C. Doubennier, managers. The method of handling was such as to force the price upward. The agent required the owner to put a net price on his land. The real estate broker then sold the land at whatever he could get above the owner's price, taking the excess as commission. In this way fortunes were made in a few years by both buyers and brokers.

The rapid sales of land called for men to do abstracing, and bonded abstractors were located in every county seat. In Jerauld County C. W. McDonald filed his bond as an abstractor in April and soon had all he could do it that line. In July the Jerauld County Abstract Co. was formed.

The numerous land deals were of great benefit to the county in the collection of delinquent personal and real estate taxes, which were a lien on the land and must be paid before an abstract could show a clear title.

But land prices were not the only evidences of prosperity. Mortgage sales of all kinds ceased almost entirely except in a few cases where foreclosure was necessary to perfect a land title. The price of farm products began to go up. In October wheat was selling at 52c; corn 40c; hogs \$6.10; butter 13c; eggs 15c. The creameries were the greatest sources of wealth aside from the rise in the value of land. At Alpena the creamery took in over two million pounds of milk and made almost 89,000 pounds of butter during the year 1901. In January, 1901, the Glen Creamery reported that during the preceeding year it had paid to its patrons \$11,836.13, while the institution at Wessington Springs did an equally good business. In the banks of the county the deposits increased to \$22.00 per capita of the county population. In Alpena, for the first time in several years all four grain elevators were in operation handling the immense crop produced that year. The county treasurer's report made in January, 1901, showed that during the preceeding three months the county had not paid out a dollar for relief of the poor and during the next three months the amount expended for that purpose was but \$7.65.

At Glen, in Logan Township, Mr. Frick was compelled to add twenty feet to the length of his store building to accommodate his growing business. At the Walter's skimming station in Viola Township Mr. Otto Wagner built a store in the forepart of the season and for some time drove a good trade in such articles as the farmers needed.

In county matters but little occurred outside of routine business. The board reorganized January 3rd, by electing P. H. Shultz, commissioner from the second district, chairman. At this meeting the board decided to build an addition to the court house and put in another vault. It was also necessary to rebuild the jail and repair the cells. The contract for putting up the two buildings was let to Samuel Marience, the total cost being about \$2,500. It was planned to build the new jail on the block south of the Willard Hotel, but a strongly signed petition from the people of the town resulted in placing the building on the hill near the court house, where it now stands.

On November 18th, 1901, the county commissioners acting as road viewers reported in favor of opening a highway beginning at the half-



Alpena 1899.



Alpena Band.

section corner post between sections 20 and 21 in Media Township and running east through the center of sections 21, 22 and 23 to half-section corner post between sections 23 and 24, thence north one mile, thence east 80 rods to end of lane, which is 80 rods east of half-section corner between 13 and 14. They also reported in favor of abandoning the highway between sections 16 and 21; 15 and 22; 14 and 23; 21 and 28; 22 and 27.

On the evening of April 22nd a young man, riding one horse and leading another, arrived at Wessington Springs and stayed over night. The animals were valuable ones and the young fellow was anxious to sell one of them. He offered the horse at a price so low that Mr. Price, the liveryman, became suspicious that all was not right. In the morning the man departed taking the horses with him. About an hour after he had left the town a telephone message was received from Huron telling the sheriff, Chas. Knudson, to look out for a man who had stolen a team of horses near that place and was supposed to be somewhere in the vicinity of Wessington Springs. The sheriff invited Mr. Price to go with him and together they set out in pursuit of the man with the animals. They overtook him at the residence of J. A. Paddock in Crow Township. They were close upon the fellow before he discovered that he was being pursued. He was requesting Mr. Paddock to open a gate that stretched across the road, when that gentleman remarked that "Those men who are following seem to think otherwise." The young man released the led horse and attempted to escape on the other. Mr. Price drew a revolver and began firing. The horseman immediately stopped and surrendered. He proved to be the man wanted by the Huron parties.

In November a man named Romboldt stole a span of heavy draft horses from Ray Barber at Alpena, but was captured with the stolen property. At the request of States Attorney Francis, a special term of the circuit court was called and the prisoner was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary on a plea of guilty. This ended the perpetration of crimes of that character in the county.

The annual picnic of the old settlers' association of western Jerauld County was held at Pierce's grove, two miles west of Templeton, on the 14th of June. This grove then became the meeting place for the association in subsequent years.

On May 15th a district W. C. T. U. convention was held at Wessington Springs in the Congregational Church. This was followed on June 28th by a county Sunday School convention in the same church.

On June 12th the Wessington Springs Seminary graduated a class of twelve members as follows: Harry Lackwood, May Cook, Clara Phil-

lips, Stephen Dixon, Carry Talbot, Carrie Allen, Roy McNeil, Frank Shultz, Ethel White, Hattie Esmay, Alex. Kennedy, Geraldine Heath.

The county teachers' institute was opened June 17th and continued two weeks in the Seminary Chapel, Prof. Doderer, of Chamberlain, conductor.

A state conference of the Universalist Churches of South Dakota was held at Wessington Springs on June 20th.

On July 3rd, 4th and 5th a district G. A. R. re-union was held in White's Grove at Alpena. Like all such gatherings, the old veterans were greeted with an immense concourse of people from Jerauld, Sanborn and Beadle Counties.

The Fourth of July was also celebrated at Glen, Gordon P. O. and the Solberg Church in Viola Township.

The only change made in the mail service in the county was in Viola Township, where the Ada post office was re-established, with Mr. J. C. Miller as P. M. This occurred in April.

Among the churches and societies some changes and additions were made. In Pleasant Township a Farmers' Club was organized that socially was a great help to the west side of the county. On June 30th a Congregational Church was organized at Fauston and on July 7th it was received into the fellowship of churches. The new church started out with 22 members. In the autumn the society employed Samuel Marlenee to put up a church edifice for them and on the 7th of November the corner stone was laid.

At Alpena the Presbyterian society began the construction of a new church building. The contract for the carpenter work was given to Samuel Marlenee, who began work on the 7th of November. A lodge of "Brotherhood of America" with 21 charter members was organized in January and the "Royal Neighbors" in August. These were fraternal insurance societies.

May 5th the German Lutherans dedicated a new organ which they had purchased for their church in the south part of Alpena township. A sermon in the German language was preached by Rev. Gebhardt, of Conova, and one in English by Rev. Lack, the local pastor. Rev. Lack resigned as pastor in December.

On November 30th a brass band was organized at Alpena with 15 pieces, to which seven more instruments were added the next week. This organization became one of the prominent musical aggregations of the state.

The only change among the newspapers of the county was in Alpena, when R. E. Dye on April 5th succeeded E. M. Cochran in the office of the Journal.

Business changes in the county in 1901 were numerous.

About the first of June Ray Barber began building at Alpena one of the finest livery barns in the state. It was 42 feet wide by 96 feet in length.

Sept. 1st C. W. Miller purchased the Alpena hotel of Mrs. Barber and Mrs. Thompson and took possession. At about the same time the C. L. Coleman Lumber Co. established a yard at Alpena.

During the first week in December W. H. McMillan and J. D. Chamberlain purchased the Alpena meat market of Andrew Mercet, and a few days later W. R. Wiley bought the furniture store and business at Alpena of J. D. Chamberlain.

In August Mr. Chamberlain had purchased the Presbyterian Church building on the north side of Main street in Alpena, opposite Odd Fellows Hall and fitted it up for use as a general store.

At Wessington Springs the first business transaction of the year was the sale of the local telephone company's line to the Dakota Central Telephone Co. This occurred on January 1st, 1901.

A few days later Mr. Vanderveen sold his lumber stock and business to E. B. Paddock, who ran the business alone until September, when he sold a half interest to W. T. McConnell.

The latter part of March Homer Hackett began the erection of a building for use of the England furniture company. G. T. England, successor to the company, still occupies the building, which he has since purchased.

In April W. T. George and W. T. McConnell located in Wessington Springs to engage in business. The coming of these gentlemen was probably the first step in the making of a greater Wessington Springs. Mr. George purchased a half interest in the Vessey store, which then took the name of Vessey-George Mercantile Co., and Mr. McConnell became president of the Bank of Wessington Springs.

On May 3rd E. M. Cochran rented and took possession of the Carlton House in Wessington Springs, but retired from it in October and was succeeded in its management by C. N. Hall, the owner.

Howard Pope sold his interest in the blacksmith business to which he and Mr. Minnill had added feed grinding. This change occurred in May and a little later Mr. Mennill sold a half interest in the business to Homer Hackett.

In August A. M. Slocum built a photograph gallery on the northwest corner of Main and Third streets.

The next month (Sept. 1901) Mrs. Minnie Easton took charge of the millinery department in the Vessey-George store.

About the first of October Dr. Smith and Prof. E. G. Burritt opened a drug store in the Weibold building on the southwest corner of Main and 3rd streets.

On November 15th Steere & Wallace began building a two-story mercantile structure on the northwest corner of Main and 2nd streets.

Sometime in the forepart of the year Mr. M. Kieffer, undoubtedly one of the most skillful masons in the state, located at Wessington Springs and began working at his trade.

Among the prominent people of the county who died during the year were Ambrose Baker of Marlar township; J. H. May, of Alpena township and C. M. Chery and Mrs. C. M. Spears of Wessington Springs.

Chapter 14.

(1902).

On January 7th, 1902, the county commissioners re-elected P. H. Shultz chairman of the board, being the only time in the history of the county that a member has been given that position two times in succession.

On March 1st of that year the cash in the hands of the treasurer was a little more than \$20,000. Never before had the county funds reached so high a figure.

In July the county purchased of Mrs. Johanna McDowall a tract of land for a road through the hills on the east line of the county. In August the board took up for final adjustment the matter of a highway through Media township west from the end of the grade west of Wessington Springs. For many years this had been a vexatious subject. Many "views" and surveys had been made, but with no practical results. But this time a survey was made, the notes recorded and the land purchased for the road that now extends from the county seat to where it strikes the section line road between sections 8 and 17 in Media township.

Nothing else was done by the county board during the year except the ordinary routine work.

On July 28th the county teachers' institute began a two-weeks session with Prof. C. W. Martindale, of Yankton, conductor.

The County Sunday School convention was held Sept. 7th in the Grisinger grove in Franklin township.

As the time for the biennial election approached the parties prepared for the contest. The Republican party put forth the following ticket:

Senator—T. W. Lane.
 Representative—H. B. Ferren.
 Treasurer—D. C. Wallace.
 Register of Deeds—W. B. Wilson.
 Auditor—J. D. Powell.
 Sheriff—G. N. Price.
 Judge—C. W. McDonald.
 Clerk—W. F. Taylor.
 County Supt.—A. V. Hall.
 Coroner—J. E. Shull.
 County Com., 2nd District—Geo. C. Martin.
 County Co., 3rd District—O. O. England.

The Populist party nominated:

For Senator—J. A. Eberly.
 Representative—N. A. Keeler.
 Treasurer—M. A. Shaefer.
 Auditor—R. W. Wiley.
 Register of Deeds—J. A. Ford.
 Sheriff—Chas. A. Knudson.
 Attorney—C. C. Gleim.
 Clerk—J. W. Snart.
 County Supt.—Geo. O. Williams.
 Coroner—Pat McDonald.
 County Com., 2nd Dist.—P. H. Shultz.
 County Co., 3rd Dist.—H. T. Gilbert.

The Prohibition party also had a ticket in the field.

The result was the election of the entire Republican ticket except the candidate for sheriff. This was the first sweeping victory of the Republicans in twelve years.

In 1892 the government established a post office at the sod house of Jacob Stickley in Pleasant township. There O. E. Corwin opened a store at the same time. Both continued about a year.

In February the government contracted with the following mail carriers: Crow Lake and Mt. Vernon routes, J. H. Vessey; Miller route, W. Spain; Woonsocket, Wm. Keene. All these routes started from Wessington Springs.

In March the county furnished the plank and street commissioner Wm. Hawthorne for the village of Wessington Springs laid a sidewalk from the Willard Hotel to the court house.

The Fourth of July celebrations in 1902 were at Chas. Walter's grove



W. B. Wilson.



Wm. F. Taylor.



G. T. England.



Dale C. Wallace.



Mrs. Minnie Easton.

in Viola; at Glen P. O. in Logan; at Peirce's Grove in Harmony and at Wessington Springs.

A month later, Aug. 3rd, the new Congregational Church at Fauston was dedicated and on Sept. 21 the same ceremony was conducted for the new Alpena Presbyterian Church. On October 19th the Alpena M. E. Church was out of debt and celebrated the occasion by publicly burning the mortgage that had rested on the church so many years. In connection with the same church a charter was granted to a Junior Epworth League society on Dec. 15, 1902.

Early in 1902 the M. E. Society at Wessington Springs decided to erect a larger church building on Fourth Street, a block north of Main Street and offered the old church, built by the early settlers in 1883, for sale. It was purchased by the Solberg Swedish Lutheran Society of the south part of Franklin township, but was not moved to its new location until 1904. The Methodist Church at Wessington Springs began the erection of their new building in the summer of 1902, but it was not completed until the next year. In the meantime the society obtained the use of the Universalist building.

The Society of Friends in Harmony Township moved a building owned by them in Hand County to a location they had obtained on the south side of Peirce's Grove, two miles west of Templeton, and established that as their meeting place in the county.

During the first week in January, 1902, R. E. Dye succeeded Richard Davenport as postmaster at Alpena. Later in the season the postoffice and printing office were placed under one roof at their present location.

Nov. 29th the Stock P. O. in Chery township was discontinued.

April 1st W. E. Waterbury gave up the old Waterbury P. O. and it was moved three miles east to the residence of Clark Wetherell who had been appointed P. M.

About the middle of December O. O. England bought the J. R. Eddy mercantile stock at Templeton and became postmaster at that office.

In the fall of this year, (1902), a fire company was organized in Crow Lake township for protection against prairie fires. The officers were J. C. Russell, Joseph O'Brien and B. Weibold. Each member of the company was required to equip himself with certain means for fighting fire and to respond immediately to an alarm.

On March 24th John Sime completed his artesian well on the southwest quarter of section seven in Franklin township at a depth of 830 feet.

Numerous changes were made in the banking institutions of the county during the year. The Bank of Alpena on the 22nd of July increased its capital stock to \$12,000 and about the same time began the construction



F. G. Vessey.



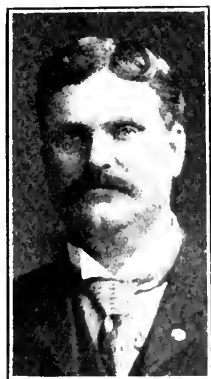
A. R. McConnell.



M. S. Cozeman.



J. H. Woodburn.



E. B. Maris.

of a brick building for use of the institution at the southeast corner of Main and 2nd streets.

The organization of the Alpena State Bank was completed Aug. 22nd. The incorporators were D. S. Manwaring and Frank Baker of Alpena and C. R. and M. A. Manwaring of Atwood, Iowa, with F. E. Manning as cashier. The capital stock was \$10,000. The bank was formally opened for business Sept. 1st. The deposits in this institution during the first three weeks of its existence was \$23,000.

In the latter part of December, D. C. Wallace resigned his position as cashier of the Bank of Alpena and moved to Wessington Springs to enter upon his duties as county treasurer.

On Sept. 17th R. S. and F. G. Vessey became owners of the stock of the Wessington Springs State Bank with T. F. Vessey, F. M. Steere, John R. Francis and Gilmore Robins, the latter being of Grinnell, Iowa.

The First National Bank of Wessington Springs was authorized Sept. 25th and opened for business on the first day of Oct. The first issue of its currency was on November 19th. The stockholders of the new bank were J. H. Woodburn, John Grant, W. T. George, E. B. Maris, W. T. McConnell, A. R. McConnell, O. J. Marshall, Sarah McConnell, J. B. Collins, W. H. Sutton and C. R. Cornelius, all but the last four being directors. The officers were W. T. McConnell, president, J. H. Woodburn, vice-president and E. B. Maris, cashier. The capital stock was \$25,000, upon which semi-annual dividends have been paid each year since the opening of the bank. At the close of this history, January 1st, 1909, the bank's surplus and undivided profits exceeded \$10,000. The new institution began business in the little frame building formerly occupied as a hardware store on the north side of Main street, three doors west of 2nd street. The directors immediately began preparations for a brick building on the corner of Main and 2nd streets on the ground where the Woodburn store building stood. The store building they moved one lot east. Work on the new building commenced Dec. 9th, but it was not completed until the next year.

The year 1902 was one of much business activity in both Wessington Springs and Alpena. At the latter place Grant Anderson started a harness shop in his hardware store in January, and the next month C. S. Jacobs opened a harness shop on the north side of Main street, with his son Louis Jacobs as manager. About the first of August, however, Mr. Jacobs sold his business to Mr. Anderson, who has since done the business for that part of the county.

C. C. Isenbuth sold his mercantile store and business in January to F. A. Franzwa, who took possession February 1st. In May Mr. Franzwa had the first cement walk in the town laid in front of his store and in



Jacob Sickley's Sod House.



Stickley's Martial Band.

August remodeled and enlarged the building, adding another story for living rooms.

In February George Hatch began building a new livery barn, which was completed in early spring. He later in the summer purchased the barn and livery stock of Ray Barber taking possession in August.

T. L. White and Wm. Zink of Wessington Springs put in a stock of farm machinery at Alpena in January and employed Pat McDonald as salesman. In October Mr. White sold his interest in the business to Mr. Zink, who continued alone to the close of the year.

In April and May Andrew Mercer built a restaurant building on the south side of Main street, but in October sold the building and business to G. Evenson.

A. Amundson, who for several years had been in charge of the C. M. & St. P. Ry. station at Alpena, resigned on May 1st and was succeeded by C. G. Boom.

July 1st, J. R. Milliken purchased of L. N. Loomis his real estate business and a few days later the latter moved to Minneapolis.

A change was made in the barber shop in the latter part of August when Art Winters and Frank Eastman bought the business of L. N. Tillery.

In the same month W. H. McMillan purchased J. D. Chamberlain's interest in the meat market.

In the fall of 1902 Dr. H. E. Jenkinson located in Alpena to take up the practice of his profession.

To the real estate men more than all others, probably, was due the increased activity in the various lines of business. At Alpena fifteen cars of immigrants arrived on Feb. 21, brought by the National Land Co., and the next week twelve cars came, independent of local agents. The state was literally overrun with real estate men taking prospective buyers to different counties to look at land. In November J. W. Doubenmier came to Alpena to take charge of the business of the National Land Co. in place of A. C. Doubenmier.

At Wessington Springs W. H. Sutton purchased the Kennedy hardware stock the latter part of January and later moved it into the Steere & Wallace building on the corner of Main and 2nd streets.

Early in the year White & Zink built a machinery warehouse on the north side of Main street between First and Second.

March 1st Hugh Personius of Woonsocket rented the Carlton House, but in the latter part of March sold to F. W. Dodge. About the first of Sept. Mr. Personius purchased the Willard Hotel, but a few days later sold that, also, to Mr. Dodge.

In April R. Vanderveen re-purchased of Messrs. Paddock and McConnell the lumber business in Wessington Springs.

A month later J. B. Collins established a lumber and coal yard in Wessington Springs, which became the first permanent yard in the town, being purchased March 23rd, 1904, by the W. W. Johnson Lumber Co.

In July C. C. Gleim, an attorney from Artesian, located in Wessington Springs to practice law.

August 1st W. T. George retired from the Vessey-George Mercantile Co., and the business again passed under the name of Vessey Bros., managed by T. F. Vessey. On the 8th of Sept. Vessey Bros. began putting up a two-story building on the northeast corner of 2nd and Main streets. Into this building they moved their mercantile stock on Dec. 8th and had an "opening" for the entertainment of their customers on Dec. 18th.

In Sept. E. L. Smith erected a store building on the lot east of Brod-korb's meat market, on the south side of Main street for use of N. M. Spears with his grocery stock.

October 1st J. W. Shull bought and took possession of the Pioneer Drug Store.

Dr. C. E. Stewart located in Wessington Springs in the summer to practice medicine with his brother Dr. F. H. Stewart.

But many things occurred this year tending toward the advancement of general business and social affairs of the county, aside from individual business matters.

On March 8th the Alpena band, which had now become a very efficient musical organization, made its first public appearance and soon became noted in this part of the state.

The Alpena Gun Club had its first contest with outside marksmen on March 20th and won the game. The Alpena shooters were C. W. Miller, R. Mercer, C. G. Haskins, J. E. Shull and J. H. Verry.

In the early spring of 1902 the village of Alpena found itself entirely free from debt and a strong demand being made for better school facilities. An election was therefore held on April 5th to vote on the matter of creating an independent school district three miles square in the northeast corner of the township. The proposition carried and the new district at once set about the building of an addition to the old school house. Fifteen hundred dollars bonds were voted and issued for the improvements. On Oct. 26 school was opened with 100 pupils divided into three schools.

In August the Alpena Epworth League arranged for a lecture course for the ensuing winter. This was the beginning of a course that has been continued ever since.

At the Wessington Springs Seminary the graduating exercises occur-

red on June 18th for a class of six; B. I. Hubbard, G. Benton Ingram, Mary M. Nelson, Odell K. Whitney, Ara B. George and Ruth Cook.

In both Alpena and Wessington Springs the subject of better protection against fire began to be seriously considered. Both towns were "talking" artesian well, and on Dec. 1st the county seat voted bonds in the sum of \$2,500 to carry out the project. Alpena postponed the question until the next season.

For twenty years Wessington Springs had been waiting for a railroad. Each year there had been rumors of railway communication, sometimes in one direction and sometimes in another. But now the people determined to do something to remedy the methods of transportation. A league of business men was formed in February 17th, 1902, to consider all matters pertaining to the welfare of the town. An organization was perfected with C. S. Jacobs, president; W. T. McConnell, vice-president; E. G. Burritt, secretary and Jeff. Sickler, treasurer. These officers were members of an executive committee to which was also added R. S. Vessey, O. J. Marshall and F. M. Steere. A few days later a company was incorporated under the name of the Wessington Springs and Woonsocket Electric Railway Company. A good deal of correspondence was had by the league with civil engineers and capitalists during the next few weeks. On May 9th a couple of railway officials of the C. M. & St. P. came to Wessington Springs and engaged a livery team with G. N. Price as driver. They visited the west part of the county and spent the night at Richards P. O. in Buffalo county. The next day they returned and went on to the railroad. What would come of this visit no one would guess. Disappointments from that source had been so many that none would risk a hope. A meeting was called to consider the feasibility of putting an automobile line in operation between Wessington Springs and Woonsocket. While that was under consideration by the people of the town, the C. M. & St. P. on June 6th began surveying from Woonsocket west. One line was run straight toward the court house in Wessington Springs and another toward the Wallace gulch three miles north. Then the days, weeks and months dragged wearily on and all thought this railroad rumor had gone like the others. December came, and on the 9th of that month Mr. B. H. Eldridge, civil engineer, in the employ of the C. M. & St. P. Co. arrived in Wessington Springs with a full crew of surveyors. They secured board at the Willard Hotel and obtained the use of the office room of the old Carlton House for headquarters. It then became known that a final survey was to be made for a line between Wessington Springs and Woonsocket and that a railroad was to be built from Woonsocket to the Wessington Hills. But, would it be run to Wessington Springs, or would the company destroy the town that the people had kept alive, with

hope, for so many years. The year 1902 drew to a close, and one of the hardest winters in the history of the county settled down over the prairies, leaving the important question unanswered.

On Dec. 13th, 1902, snow began falling in large flakes and continued two days and two nights without stopping. There was no wind and the flakes rested where they fell. The weather was just cold enough to keep the snow from changing to rain until the evening of the 16th, then for a few minutes the rain fell in torrents. This was followed by a cold wave with a northwest wind. The snow was too wet to drift and the crust of water froze until all over the prairie, on hill and in valley, rested a coating of ice from a half inch to an inch in thickness. It was impossible to drive animals through the snow because the ice crust cut their legs like glass. To make a road men had to go ahead and break the ice so the teams could follow. This winter, though not so cold as some, was one of the hardest in which to do farm work, that has even been experienced in the Dakotas.

Chapter 15.

(1903).

The surveyors that had established headquarters in the old Carlton House at Wessington Springs in the last week in December, 1902, continued their work during the first week of January, 1903, and ran several lines from the Firesteel Creek to the hills. On February 19th the railway company notified the people of the town that the nearest approach they could make to the town was the line over which the track was eventually built. They also requested the people to donate the land needed for depot and terminal facilities. The amount thought necessary was 16 or 18 acres. This, Mr. B. F. Hubbard, who owned the land, offered to sell at \$75 per acre. A meeting of the Business Men's League was held on the 21st, at which it was voted unanimously to comply with the request and to raise the money by popular subscription. Before the land was decided to the company the request was reduced by about 11 acres so that only about seven acres were desired by the company. This change was made in the forepart of May. At another public meeting held March 30th, it had been voted to ask the village trustees to levy a tax to pay for the terminal ground. The tax was levied, but its collection was enjoined by the circuit court. The money had already been paid, however.

by subscription, and the expense of providing the depot and other grounds fell upon a few individuals.

The work of buying the right-of-way for the railroad began on March 13th, the company paying therefor \$30.00 per acre. On May 6th Mr. Kennedy, a railway contractor, arrived with a large force of graders and pitched his camp about a mile east of town, near the right-of-way. The grading was divided into two contracts and was pushed as is the case with all such contract work. By September 1st the grade was completed from Wessington Springs to Woonsocket and laying ties and rails commenced. On September 20th the long looked for day arrived when the construction train reached the end of the line and Wessington Springs had a railroad.

With the railroad came a new influence, before unknown to the village by the hills. In all the years of its history Wessington Springs had been strict in its observance of the Sabbath. By ordinance the village trustees had imposed a fine upon any business man who sold goods on Sunday, except the meat market man, who was permitted to keep his shop open on Sunday until 10 o'clock A. M.

But the railroad threatened to revolutionize the old town in regard to Sabbath observance. The first passenger train to be pulled out of Wessington Springs was an excursion on Sunday Sept. 27th, G. A. Lawler, conductor, and A. Martins, engineer, to the Corn Palace at Mitchell. A great many Wessington Springs people went on that train. The puritanic sentiment of those who stayed at home was greatly shocked. A petition in the nature of a protest was liberally signed and forwarded to the officials of the company, requesting that they desist from running Sunday excursions to, or from, Wessington Springs. At first but little attention was paid to the petition, but at length the expressed public opinion had its effect and the practice of running Sunday trains unnecessarily was abandoned.

The next day, Sept. 28th, the railway company began running a mixed train daily to Wessington Springs, where they had left a box car to be used as a depot in charge of Mr. Earl, the first station agent. A few days later the long distance telephone line was extended to the depot box car for use of the station agent until the telegraph line could be brought in. The phone is still in use.

On Oct. 2nd Car No. 46574 was loaded by J. B. Collins with 996 bushels of No. 1 hard wheat. There being no agent at Wessington Springs at that time, the car was taken to Woonsocket by the construction train and there billed to the Van Dusen-Harrington Co., at Minneapolis. This was the first car of grain shipped from Wessington Springs. The price was 79 cents per bushel. The proceeds of the grain was \$786.84.



H. A. Frick and his two sons Guy and Harry E. Frick.



Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wood.



W. T. McConnell.



C. J. Pfaff.



J. G. Bradford.

Before the first of October Gotwals & Russell, stockbuyers at Wessington Springs shipped the first carload of cattle over the new road. The stock yards were completed in November, and when, on the 15th of December the mail began coming to Wessington Springs by rail the town felt its connection with the world was complete.

STARTING A NEW TOWN.

When it became certain that the C. M. & St. P. was going to build west from Woonsocket, L. N. Loomis and T. W. Lane purchased the south half of section 17, of Franklin township and gave the railway town-site company a half interest in the land in consideration of it being made the site of the town to be located between Wessington Springs and Woonsocket. A few days later, May 15th, Mr. Franzwa, who had sold his store at Alpena, began building a store on the railway right of way near where the depot now stands.

About a week later E. H. Wood and F. G. Vessey of Wessington Springs borrowed a small safe which they placed in Franzwa's store building and started "The Farmers State Bank," as a partnership. About the same time the Fullerton Lumber Co. put up a small office building as the beginning of the first lumber yard in Lane, with G. S. Warren agent.

Before the roof had been put over the Fullerton office building the First National Bank people of Wessington Springs took steps toward the incorporation of another bank, also having the name "Farmers State Bank." The articles were prepared and sent to Pierre to be filed with the secretary of state, and Carl Lange, cashier, procured a dry goods box for a desk and a cracker box for a seat. By permission, he placed them both in the roofless lumber office, and placing himself behind one and upon the other, was also ready to do a banking business in the name of "The Farmers State Bank." But Vessey & Wood had by this time learned of the move of the rival bank, and had drawn up articles of incorporation which they had recorded. Mr. Wood then took the papers for his bank and went to Pierre. The articles of the opposing bank were sent to the state capital on the same train. Arrived at the office of the secretary of state both sets of papers were presented for filing. The secretary looked over the documents and rejected the one presented by First National Bank because it had not been recorded at Wessington Springs. He then took up Mr. Wood's articles of incorporation and rejected them because the notary in his hurry had neglected to affix his official seal. It was to be a race for the name of the bank. One set of papers must be recorded, and the other must be sealed. Mr. Wood was probably never more thankful for a long distance 'phone. He called up the notary at Wessington

Springs and told him to come to Pierre at once and bring his Notarial Seal. It is needless to say that Vessey & Wood became officers of "The Farmers State Bank" of Lane. The other bank became incorporated, but under the name of "The Security Bank," of Lane.

About the same time that the race for the name of the bank was going on Mr. Franzwa forwarded to the post office department at Washington an application for the establishment of a post office at Lane and that he be made the first postmaster. During this time a ball nine and a gun club were organized composed of sportsmen living in the vicinity of the new station. No records have been preserved of the achievements of the gun club, but the ball nine distinguished itself by defeating all the neighboring teams that crossed bats with it. As yet the town had not been platted and persons established on the proposed townsite were only "squatters" with no priority of right.

On the 16th of July the "Jerauld County News," published by R. B. Smith, was issued from an office located in a granary on the northeast quarter of section 19—the old L. E. Franklin homestead. The paper was a six-column folio and announced decided opposition to saloons. The first subscription order received by the publisher was from Mr. John Klem.

The town was platted about the middle of July and on the 31st the company sold the lots at public auction. Mr. Franzwa received his commission and began to do business as postmaster on the day of the town lot sale.

By this time both banks were duly incorporated and doing business. The directors of the Security Bank were W. T. McConnell, J. H. Woodburn, E. B. Maris, O. J. Marshall, O. O. Lindebak and F. A. Franzwa. The officers of the Farmers State Bank were F. G. Vessey, president; D. H. Wood, vice president and E. H. Wood, cashier. But as it was thought the business of the town would not warrant the continuance of two banks the Security sold its business and outfit to the rival institution on the first day of August.

All was now hustle and hurry in the new town. Hammers and saws sounded from daylight until long after nightfall in strenuous preparation for the approaching winter. In the first days of August the foundation for the bank building was completed and the superstructure erected upon it in time to make it the first permanent building of the town.

On Sept. 1st L. W. Casteman, of Alpena, began selling meat in Lane, and on the 12th the railroad construction train arrived. About the same time work on the L. N. Loomis elevator commenced and in one month it was ready to receive grain.

Carl L. Strieve and Fred Seifkin were both buying stock at Lane during September and October, 1903.

On Sept. 6th a large tent was set up at Lane and an enthusiastic Sunday School rally held.

By Sept. 24th the weather had become so cold that the open granary from which the newspaper had been issued was no longer habitable for a printing office. There was no room that could be rented and the editor was forced to suspend publication until a building could be erected and a room prepared. Between Sept. 24th and October 22nd no paper was issued. The paper then resumed regular issue. On November 12th the name of the paper was changed to "The Lane Pioneer News" and as such it has made its weekly visit to its readers ever since.

About the 1st of November W. L. Smith became local agent for the Fullerton Lumber Co. at Lane, and has held the position to the present time.

On November 27th two things happened of widely different natures; one was the organization of The Ladies' Aid Society with Mrs. L. J. Grisinger, president; Mrs. George E. Whitney, vice president; Mrs. R. B. Smith, secretary; and Mrs. R. Nesbit, treasurer; the other was a petition by Nick Wicker to the township board to call a special election to vote on the saloon question.

By November 24th a forge had been set up in the smithy and Samuel Feistner lighted the first forge fire and repaired a "throw-off" lever for the News job press. This occurred in Feistner Bros. shop.

Ed. Eaton named his restaurant "The Star" and served the first meal in it at noon on the last day of November in the building put up by Mr. Franzwa about the middle of May. Up to that time the room had been used as a general merchandise store but these Mr. Franzwa began moving into his new store on the corner which he formally "opened" on the 12th of December.

One of the most important events in November was the sinking of an artesian well, which has since supplied the town with water.

On Dec. 4th D. P. Ryan, as buyer, opened the Cargill grain elevator for business, and on Dec. 22nd H. H. Fetterly opened a barber shop.

During all this hurly-burly of building, moving and getting ready for winter probaly no man was of greater assistance to all than Oscar Lindbak who began doing a dray and livery business in November.

Although trains began running into Lane regularly on Sept. 28th and received and delivered freight at that place the railway company had no depot until the next year nor no regular agent. Sometimes Mr. Franzwa receipted for outgoing freight and stored it in his store, or in

the company's tool house, built in November, and sometimes it was receipted for by the conductor.

But while Lane was coming into existence and Wessington Springs was trying to adjust itself to railway conditions, the town of Alpena was equally busy in taking care of the business demands that were going that way.

The Bank of Alpena moved into its new building during the first week in January. Fred Ferguson and Mason Smith were granted a franchise for a telephone exchange in the town on February 12th "to continue as long as they do business under the same name and management." The telephone exchange was not put in, however, until in Nov. when the work was done by Bert Pinard, of Wessington Springs for another company composed of A. F. Smith, J. E. Shull, J. M. Johnson, D. S. Manwaring and R. E. Dye. At that time 40 phones were installed.

C. W. Miller sold and gave possession of the Reveve House to Mason Smith March 2nd, and about a month later A. N. Louder purchased the Franzwa store and business.

In April Grant Anderson increased the length of his store building making it 140 feet long by 24 feet in width.

Dr. Jenkinson closed his partnership relations with Dr. Shull in May and in August purchased the practice of Dr. Stewart at Wessington Springs and located there.

The Alpena Investment Co. was organized in May with J. D. Chamberlain as president and A. S. Cory as secretary and treasurer. This company a few days later (May 24th) received of C. H. Prior a deed for a strip of land 66 feet wide by 2,100 feet long on the east side of the platted portion of the town, for use as a public street.

In April a petition was filed with the town trustees asking that the establishment of a saloon in Alpena be submitted to the voters of the town at the next election. The vote was taken May 4th and the saloon was voted in by 12 majority. C. J. Vandergrift applied for license to sell liquor and the application was granted. On June 10th the county commissioners held a special session and approved the saloon bond.

A meeting was held May 25th to consider the subject of putting down an artesian well in Alpena. A contract was entered into with Redfield parties to drill a three-inch well and on August 15th the work was completed at a depth of 713 feet, having a flow of over 600 gallons per minute. A contract was made September 18th for laying the mains for a village water system, which was completed November 18th and a water tank for public use placed on the north side of Main street between the hotel and the depot.

On June 24th the largest Rebekah lodge in the state was organized

at Alpena with 84 members, and named "Echo Lodge." The officers were, Mrs. Ella V. Milliken, N. G.; Mrs. Mattie Hillis, V. G.; A. S. Cory, Sec.; Miss Blanche Hatch, Treas.

W. H. McMillan sold his meat market to Geo. Marston June 23rd. About the same time J. S. Tripp opened a drugstore on the north side of Main street west of Chamberlain's store.

A few days later, the forepart of July, Ray Barber purchased of George Hatch both livery barns and the stock which he continued to own until the next year.

August 10th E. F. Allen came up from Woonsocket and took the management of the Columbia Company's elevator and has retained the position to the present time.

About the middle of August L. W. Castleman purchased the meat market, and K. O. Kettleon of Woonsocket bought G. Everson's restaurant building and business.

About the 20th of August T. L. White bought an interest in the Bank of Alpena and became its cashier, and about the same time M. G. Shull and J. W. Doubenmier opened a pool and billiard hall on the north side of Main street.

In the forepart of September L. D. Miller built a photograph gallery in the west part of the business portion of Main street and T. B. Yegge put up a new store building west of the Revere House.

On September 10th the Alpena creamery that had started many a poor farmer on the road to prosperity was changed to a mere skinning station and the cream was thereafter sold to a cold storage company at Mitchell.

In the latter part of October, at the order of the village council a combined calaboose and hose house was built.

During the year 1903 the demand for millinery goods at Alpena was supplied by Mrs. Minnie Easton, of Wessington Springs.

In the first week in December R. W. Wiley bought the restaurant property of K. O. Kettleon and sold to him the furniture business.

And during the year things were happening in other parts of the county.

The Wessington Springs creamery, that had, the year before, closed its skinning station at the Albert well, in Chery township, this year closed the station at Walters' well in Viola. The cold storage companies were gradually choking the life out of the co-operative creameries.

At Glen H. A. Frick sold his interest in the store to Wm. Barker who then became postmaster. The business was continued under the firm name of Eberly & Barker.

On the Reese farm in the northwest part of Crow Lake township

another attempt was made to get an artesian well in the west part of the county. The flow was struck and the water came to within 32 feet of the top of the casing and there stopped.

In Chery township artesian wells were completed for R. W. Johnson, Geo. McGregor, C. H. La Bau, B. Horsley, and also on the old Wallace farm. The well of B. Horsley was completed at a depth of 883 feet in three days from the time the drill started into the ground. In Viola township P. H. Shultz finished his second well, and Thos. Shryock obtained one near Wessington Springs.

About the middle of March O. O. England moved the Templeton store and post office to the northwest corner of section 36. There it stood until the night of the 24th of November when it was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt at once and the business continued.

In Blaine township the Parsons postoffice, which had been under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Johnson for a good many years was discontinued on March 31st.

In Pleasant township a Sunday School convention was held June 21st. A state conference of the Universalist church was held at Wessington Springs Sept. 10th and the Free Methodists held their state conference at the same town on Sept. 30th.

A labor union was organized in February at Wessington Springs with J. A. Houseman, president.

A town meeting was held February 16th to decide upon a location for the artesian well. The meeting voted to request the village council to locate the well on the block south of the Willard Hotel. Work on the well began March 31st and continued until June 9th when it was abandoned, the town paying the drillers \$1,000 and buying the casing that had been put in the well. The drill had been lost in the first hole, but the second one had been pushed down to over 1,200 feet when water rose to within a few feet of the surface. The town then planned to use it for a pump well, and in the latter part of the season mains were laid from the well to Main Street and the machinery purchased to make use of the well for protection against fire. This plan was never a success. While drilling for the artesian well a flowing stream was found at about 60 feet which landlord Dodge piped into the Willard Hotel, in July. About the first of July Mr. Jensen of Woonsocket, began drilling an artesian well on Miles & Hunter's Addition to Wessington Springs and on the 19th of that month the well was finished with a good flow.

The town on February 2nd granted to D. C. Wallace, J. B. Collins and F. M. Steere a twenty-year franchise for use of the streets and alleys of Wessington Springs for telephone system. In the first half of May the exchange system was completed with about 80 phones. The

central office was located in a room on the 2nd floor at the north end of the Steere & Wallace building.

In February the Colman Lumber Co. purchased the Vanderveen lumber business and established a yard on 3rd Street north of the public school building, where it is still located. Mr. Vanderveen was retained by the company as their local agent.

On January 10th the W. T. George Co. opened their general store in the room vacated by Vessey Bros. in December.

In the latter part of January Wm. Zink sold his Alpena implement business to Pat McDonald and took John Farrington in as a partner in his Wessington Springs business.

On March 6th another change was made in the office of The Dakota Sieve, when Geo. W. Backus again took control of the paper.

T. F. Vessey, village treasurer, called in all outstanding village warrants, on March 12th. The village was then practically free from debt.

About March 18th R. S. Vessey and C. E. Gingery formed a partnership in real estate business and on April 1st Dr. John Cooper, of Des Moines, Iowa, located his office in Wessington Springs.

Near the middle of April Miles & Hunter's addition to Wessington Springs was laid out in town lots, and about the same time Vessey Bros. bought Mrs. Barrett's one-fourth interest in the old townsite.

In May money was raised by subscription to buy the land necessary to extend Main street east to the section line, but the project was not carried out until November 5th.

The lots on Court House Hill that had been obtained by the county from the townsite company and the people of Wessington Springs in 1885 as the result of locating the court house there, were sold at auction May 11th, 1903, the amount received being \$2,016.00.

On June 21st Children's Day was celebrated in the new M. E. church building. This was the first regular service in the building, which was dedicated July 12th.

The Fullertons, who bought a yard at the east end of Main Street, in May, was the second great lumber company, to locate in Wessington Springs.

The First National Bank moved into their new bank building on July 1st. The old building vacated by the bank, was at once moved to the south side of Main Street about opposite the new P. O. building and in it Henry Pfaff opened a restaurant.

July 2nd the True Republican printing office was moved into the Jacobs-Bancroft building on the north side of Main Street, built by C. S. Jacobs and W. F. Bancroft. A few days later the post office moved into the same room and was followed by the harness shop which Mr.

Jacobs moved into the west room of the building during the latter part of the month.

During the summer Amos Gotwals erected a building on the east side of Zink & Farrington's warehouse, which was rented by Frank Linn for a confectionery store.

About the same time E. L. Smith built an office building with two rooms on the south side of Main Street between 2nd and 3rd streets.

About Oct. 15 G. T. England bought the interest of the other members in the furniture company and became sole proprietor of the business.

In October two dray lines were started in Wessington Springs, one by L. R. Theeler and one by Walter Bateman.

For several months P. H. Hackett and Homer Hackett had been running the feed mill that was formerly owned by Howard Pope and Joe Mennill and also selling farm implements. J. W. Snart now bought P. H. Hackett's interest in the business, and it became known as the Hackett Implement Co.

Bert Healy early in the year had purchased a lot east of the Jacobs-Bancroft building and put up a one story building into which he moved his notion store the latter part of October.

The Sioux City Cold Storage Co. built a small building for their use near the railroad track, in the first week of November. The Wessington Springs Creamery, like the one at Alpena, was doomed.

The Hyde and Loomis elevators were opened for business the forepart of November, and the Lane elevator the 3rd day of December. The latter building was sold as soon as completed to the Khewise-Moven Elevator Co.

A. W. Richardson began his livery business in Wessington Springs the first week in December.

Matters educational as well as things amusing were not neglected in the busy year of 1903. A gun club was organized at Wessington Springs as was also a baseball nine. The ball nine distinguished itself in a series of games with the Plankinton team. In none of these games did the score exceed six on a side until the last game when the Plankinton team won its only victory in the series with a score of 8 to 4. This last game was at the Wessington Springs fair and field day October 9th. On that occasion the home gun club was also defeated by the marksmen from Plankinton.

The rapid growth of the town necessitated increased school facilities and in July and August the roof of the school building was raised and another story with two rooms added.

The teachers' institute was held August 17th to 28th. Prof. S. K.

Clark, conductor, assisted by John F. Wicks, Miss Irma Hall and Miss Alto M. Harris.

A county meeting of school district officers was held at Wessington Springs on the last Saturday in March at which a resolution was passed recommending that the teachers of the county be paid from \$25 to \$35 per month.

For the first time in the history of the county the banks on the first of April began paying interest on deposits of county funds.

The June commencement at the Seminary placed diplomas in the hands of the following graduates: Dora Shull, Allie McClelland, Earnest Vennard, Pearl Jackson, Charles Keller, Jesse Morehead, Florence Moulton.

The county commissioners' records for the year contain but little aside from ordinary work. At the January meeting Commissioner R. J. Tracy was made chairman.

At their meeting on May 19th the commissioners changed and established highways in Marlar and Harmony townships as follows:

"Commencing at a point 34 rods east of the corner of section 30 on south line of Harmony township and running northwest 45 rods, thence west 150 rods, thence west of south 21 rods, thence south west 87 rods, to a point 27 rods west of the half section corner on the south side of section 36 in Marlar township. Commencing at a point 125 rods north of northwest corner of section 36 in Marlar township and running southwest 96 rods, thence south 93 rods, thence 42 rods to a point 77 rods south of the northwest corner of section 36 in Marlar township."

Chapter 16.

(1904).

After the bustle and hurry in business matters at the county seat, incident to the coming of the railroad had subsided the town settled down to a steady growth. The greatest work in 1904 was the building of homes for the people brought in by the rapid increase of the various lines of work. The number of residences built each year has increased to the present time.

The railway company began work on the engine stall the first week in January and on the 15th started the carpenters at work on the permanent depot. On the same day the old box car that had been in use

as a station house caught fire and the contents badly damaged. A month later a daily passenger service was established and the freight train began running tri-weekly. The depot was completed the latter part of March.

In January E. V. Miles and his son, Leon, opened the depot hotel and a grocery store beside it. The store was continued until August, when the stock was sold to W. F. Yegge who moved it to his store in Chery township. The hotel is still in use.

The report of the management of the creamery at the annual meeting in January showed that the cold storage companies were making serious inroads upon its patronage. In June the Hanford Produce Co., of Mitchell, rented a room on Main street and began buying cream at Wessington Springs, J. H. Weast being the local buyer.

In January J. W. Snart bought Homer Hackett's interest in the feed mill and for some time ran the business alone.

During the forepart of 1904 E. R. Bateman and J. W. Cowman conducted a meat market which Mr. Riggs had established the previous fall in a building put up by O. J. Marshall on the north side of Main Street near Third street.

About the 20th of January the town council thought to make use of the vein of water found while drilling the artesian well. A man with a well augur was employed to bore down to the vein. The man went at work and when down about forty feet stopped for the night. The next morning the hole was full of water and the walls of the hole caved in. The water had broken through from the artesian well, outside the casing of which the water had been rising for some time. In Sept. another effort was made to utilize the same vein. Robert McDonald was employed to bore to the stream with a well augur. He put the hole down 73 feet and cased it. The water came to the top and ran over, but the village had no money with which to construct a system of water works and so that scheme failed.

An earnest move was now made to incorporate the town as a city of the third class. The effort did not succeed, however, until the next year.

During the forepart of the year a woman named Rice put up a building on the south side of Main street, opposite the Jacobs Bancroft building, for a millinery shop, but never carried out the plan.

About March 1st Geo. Nelson purchased an interest in the Sutton jewelry stock and moved it into the building put up the previous autumn by J. A. Housman, on the north side of Main street between Second and Third streets. The business was continued there until in October when Mr. Nelson and his sister, Mrs. Sutton, moved the stock into a brick two-story building they had built between the Gotwals confectionery

store and Jacobs' harness shop. The upper rooms of this brick building were occupied by Dr. H. E. Jenkinson, and Dr. Wetherll, the dentist.

During the forepart of the year Zink and Farrington conducted a hardware business in the Steere-Wallace building, with the stock they had purchased on the death of W. H. Sutton. T. L. White bought an interest in the business in March and the firm then became known as White, Zink & Farrington. In the summer the firm moved into their new store on the north side of Main street.

The blacksmith work this year, (1904), was done by J. A. Zink, who had a shop on the west side of 2nd street, and S. T. Leeds, who had a shop in the south end of Snart's feed building.

In April Mrs. R. W. Probert and her brother, E. U. Cummings, built and equipped a steam laundry on the west side of 2nd street, which still continues, one of the most useful institutions in the city.

On March 29th, the old M. E. Church was moved to the NW quarter of section 19 in Blaine township for the use of the Solberg Swedish Lutheran Society.

In May K. S. Starkey drilled an artesian well on a lot owned by him in the north part of the town.

During the first week in July J. G. Bradford located in Wessington Springs to practice law.

F. W. Dodge sold the Willard Hotel about the 10th of July, but did not give possession until the forepart of October, when Mrs. Gehan and her son John became owners of the property.

In July Dr. O. C. Hicks, vetrinarian, built a dipping tank near the stock yards.

In August N. M. Spears packed up his stock of goods and moved to Lyman county. His place was taken by C. A. Voorhees with a stock of groceries. Mr. Voorhees had for some time been doing a confectionery business in the old building erected by Peter Barrett in 1883. This left the confectionery business in the hands of Frank Linn and Amos Gotwals who sold their business to A. V. Hall in October.

The Sidnam elevator was completed in August being the largest of the four then in operation.

A few days later A. L. Jenkins became the resident agent of the W. W. Johnson Lumber Co. at Wessington Springs.

In November Dr. Cooper completed and moved into his office rooms on the north side of Main street between Second and Third.

From the Wessington Springs Seminary, on June 15th, was graduated a class of four students, Rosa B. Marshall, J. Mae Russell, August M. Anderson and O. Jesse Morehead.

Among the graduates of the county public schools was Malcolm E.



Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Grisinger.



Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Morehead.



L. A. Pinard.



Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Thuler.



L. E. Ausman.



James Weast.



Geo. N. Price.

White, the 12 year old son of T. L. White, one of the youngest graduates ever given a diploma in the county. One other student, Miss Mona McDonald had graduated at the same age a couple of years before.

In May the old flag pole that had for so many years stood in the center of the crossing of Main and 2nd streets was cut down and another put in its place, for use on Decoration Day and in the Fourth of July celebration that followed.

The Gun Club was re-organized in May.

On October 1st the Wessington Springs post office became a presidential office and also an international money order office.

While the foregoing events were occurring in the county seat, Lane was being pushed forward with that energy characteristic of new western towns.

On the 2nd of January the newspaper at Lane was admitted to the mails as second class matter. About the same time Henry Hatch of Alpena, and Haynes Cunningham bought the Lane livery stable and stock, but Mr. Hatch sold his interest in the business to R. McCurdy about February 25th.

During the forepart of the year L. W. Castleman supplied fresh meat to the people of Lane from his market at Alpena. But in March and April he put up a building, 16x20, one half of which he used as a meat market and rented the other half for use as a barber shop. He sold the meat market to Ira McCaul in December.

In May L. J. Grisinger began building a store on the corner south of The Farmers State Bank to be used by Geo. E. Whitney for a hardware store. June 8th the hardware stock had arrived and in the latter part of June Franzwa sold to Mr. Whitney his hardware stock. About the same time Mr. McCaul became a partner in the hardware business with Whitney and the store was opened. This firm sold their stock to A. Harris about the middle of December, who took possession the first of the following March.

C. A. Pray purchased the Star restaurant of Ed Eaton on March 15th, and June 20th sold it to Henry Koemn, of Plankinton. The building in which this restaurant was located was owned by Mr. Franzwa, who added eight bedrooms to it in July. Not long after this addition was made the restaurant was sold to Mr. Shaw, who in December sold it to Carr & Kingsbury, from Woonsocket. The name was then changed to "The Owl."

In the latter part of May Frank McCurdy began putting up a double two-story building on the west side of Main street in which he opened a large stock of general merchandise on July 15th.

R. L. Goodwin began work in his blacksmith shop about June 20th.

and in December McRoberts Bros. of Woonsocket, engaged in the same business in Lane.

In July Stakke Bros., of Woonsocket, put in a line of farm machinery at Lane, as a branch of their business at Woonsocket.

Sometime in May a company was formed with L. J. Grisinger, president, to take care of the water from the artesian well. By means of small surface pipes, by July the water was conducted into nearly every residence and business house in town.

The railway depot was completed about the middle of June, and about the same time preparations began for celebrating the first anniversary of the birth of the town,—July 30th, the date on which the town-lot sale occurred, the previous year.

June 28th the trustees of Franklin township approved Nick Weckers' application to open a saloon in the town of Lane, but the institution was not established because the county commissioners refused to approve the bond.

Work on the German Methodist parsonage began April 19th.

Mr. Joseph Kutil, the only station agent Lane has had, opened the C. M. & St. P. depot on August 16th.

July 8th R. B. Smith succeeded Mr. Franzwa as postmaster at Lane, and in October the office was made a money order office.

A Modern Woodman camp was formed at Lane on July 22nd with 25 members and a lodge of Royal Neighbors, with 20 members, was organized the following October.

In the autumn of the year, (1904), the German Lutheran Societies north and south of Lane united and moved their church building from the southern part of Alpena township into town.

During the summer the first cement walk in Lane was built by F. A. Franzwa in front of his store building.

Shultz & Starkey, after working five days and four nights, completed a well for D. P. Burnison a short distance north of Lane on Dec. 10th.

In Viola township O. W. Morehead and Louis Villbrandt had artesian wells completed in October, both by Starkey & Shultz.

In Chery township the same drillers in June and July made good, strong wells for L. A. Pinard and W. T. McConnell.

In April a strong artesian well was struck on the T. W. Lane ranch in Crow township, and a couple of weeks later a good well was drilled at the Frick farm, near Glen, in Logan township.

The Glen creamery that had done so much to enhance the prosperity of the farmers in that vicinity, was rented to the Turner Produce Co., of Mitchell, in June, 1904, and in August a still further change was made

in business matters at that place by the retirement of Mr. Eberly from the firm of Eberly & Barker.

G. M. Titus bought the Templeton store in March, 1905, of O. O. England and was appointed P. M. at that office.

At Alpena on January 1st, 1904, M. S. Rahn leased the restaurant of R. W. Wilcy, and took possession the same day. Since then this property has changed hands so often that it is almost impossible to give a complete record of it.

In the forepart of March T. B. Yegge traded his stock of merchandise to J. R. Milliken for a quarter section of land in Dale township.

About May 20 another restaurant named "The Bon-ton" was opened at Alpena by a gentleman named Badger.

May 25th J. R. Milliken and J. D. Chamberlain had an opening of their store in the old store room opposite the I. O. O. F. hall.

In the spring of the year Mrs. James Eastman began doing a millinery business in Alpena. This was the first permanent business of the kind in the town.

At the village election, March 15th, the saloon license was upheld by a majority of one vote. The institution did not live until the next year, however, because of legal complications arising from the sale of the concern by its proprietor, to parties who had given no bond, nor made application for a license.

Some time in June Mr. J. F. Spencer came to Alpena and bought John Doubenmier's pool hall.

In October A. Mercer finished a dipping tank at Alpena and began operations on the 15th of the month by dipping 116 head of cattle.

A few days later Milliken & Chamberlain, who were actively engaged in real estate business, brought to Alpena a number of automobiles, the first to be owned in the town and probably the first in the county. One of these machines was sold to D. C. Wallace, of Wessington Springs.

In the summer C. C. Rohr bought an interest with Castleman in the Alpena meat market.

On February 25th a Women's Relief Corps was organized at Alpena in connection with W. H. L. Wallace G. A. R. post.

A Yeoman lodge, with 30 members, was formed at Alpena about the 20th of April, and about the same time a fire company with ten members was formed.

Memorial Day exercises were held at the German Lutheran Church in the south part of Alpena township.

A Congregational Church was built in Anina township during the summer, to be supplied by the church at Wessington Springs.

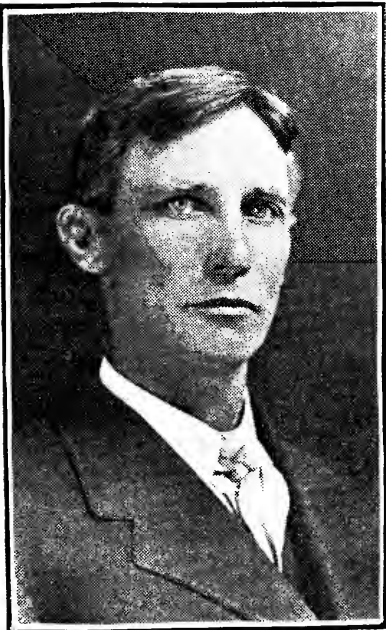
The County teachers' institute was held August 22 to Sept. 2, con-



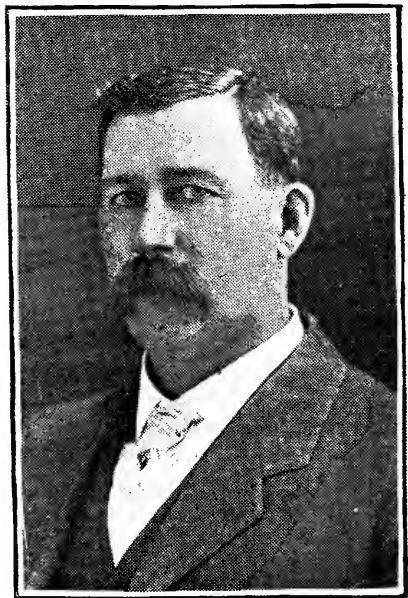
J. W. Doubenmier.



F. E. Manning.



Sam H. May.



N. B. England.

ducted by Prof. T. H. Hoff, assisted by John F. Wicks, Miss Irma Hall and Mrs. Ida Baker.

During the summer a rural telephone line was established from Wessington Springs south into Viola township.

In July, and the only time in the history of the county, a dense fog in heavy banks rolled over the state and all the northwest country west of the Mississippi river and blighted the wheat with black rust. No wind was blowing and the heat of the sun poured in between the fog banks burst the wheat straw and in two hours time the immense crop was ruined. The yield of wheat was light and of poor quality, but the damage was somewhat retrieved by good prices. For the first time in years the price of wheat reached one dollar per bushel.

The most important work of the county board was making the banks of the county depositories of county money requiring a bond for safe keeping of funds and payment of four per cent interest on daily balances.

At the April meeting the places for conducting chattel mortgage sales were fixed at Alpena, Wessington Springs and the Fauston P. O.

In politics the principal matter of interest was the election of a state capital. As the campaign progressed people in many cases dropped all kinds of work and spent their time riding from one candidate city to the other. No fare was charged and riding was unrestricted. The railway coaches were so packed with people that the conductors could not force their way through, and did not try.

In county matters three tickets were in the field, Republican, Citizens and Prohibition. Of the Republican candidates, Theo. Dean, nominated for Co. Supt., refused the nomination and the county committee named W. B. Wilson for the vacancy on the ticket, so the tickets presented to the voters were as follows:

Republican Ticket.

Senator—R. S. Vessey.

Representative—J. Jorgenson.

Treasurer—D. C. Wallace.

Auditor—J. D. Powell.

Register of Deeds—C. J. Praff.

Co. Supt.—W. B. Wilson.

Sheriff—J. D. Chamberlain.

Judge—C. W. McDonald.

Clerk—W. F. Taylor.

Attorney—C. C. Gleim.

Coronor—H. E. Jenkinson.

Co. Com., 1st Dist.—L. J. Grisinger.

Citizens Ticket.

Senator—T. L. White.

Representative—Henry Klindt.

Treasurer—Chas. Knudson.

Auditor—J. A. Paddock.

Register of Deeds—S. E. Pflamn.

Clerk—H. A. Adebar.

Sheriff—J. A. Zink.

Co. Supt.—Geo. O. Williams.

Coronor—J. E. Shull.

Co. Com., 1st Dist.—R. J. Tracy.

Independent candidate for Co. Supt.—A. V. Hall.

The result of the election was a Republican victory for every position except sheriff.

Chapter 17.

(1905).

The beginning of the year 1905 found the people of Jerauld county still hustling to keep pace with the prosperity that had come upon them. More residences must be built in both town and country; more prairie must be broken, and more crops grown. The increasing value of land seemed at first to be only speculative, but the advance in the market price of cattle, hogs and grain, with the productiveness of the soil under proper cultivation together with the improved market facilities made the values real. Land that a few years before could not be sold at any price was now sold at from \$15 to \$20 per acre, and most astonishing of all, paid for with a single crop of any kind of grain. New life was infused into the people and they bestirred themselves to take advantage of the favorable opportunities.

The great lumber companies with yards at Wessington Springs reported more lumber sold at that station than any where else on their lines. At Lane, W. L. Smith, local agent for the Fullerton Lumber Company, received the company's prize of \$100 for having the smallest percentage of unpaid accounts at the close of the year, of any of their agents. Not only were business collections generally good, but interest and taxes were promptly paid.

During the conference year of 1905 the M. E. Church at Wessington Springs, Rev. Crowther, pastor, raised \$500 for missionary work. The next year, 1906, same pastor, the amount was increased to \$1,600; in 1907 Rev. J. M. Tibbetts, pastor, \$1,700 and in 1908, same pastor, \$1,800.

In January, Dr. Martin located at Lane, the Lane Pioneer News was made one of the county official papers and a pool hall was built and ready for business by the first of February.

In March David Ried bought an interest in the livery stable of which he became sole owner in May. The township of Franklin voted saloon license by 30 majority and granted franchise for local telephone exchange to the Wessington Springs company. No exchange was put in, however, until in August, when F. McCurdy obtained a franchise and installed 25 'phones in the town. The line had been extended south from Lane to Gordon P. O. in July, where it connected with the Wessington Springs line, which had been built to that point in June. March 25th the township board granted the application of H. H. Fetterly and Fred Seifkin, but the bond was rejected by the county commissioners. Later, on August 12th, the commissioners approved the bond of Fred Seifken, by a divided vote, O. O. England voting no and L. J. Grisinger and Geo. C. Martin voting yes. The bond of Joseph Diedrich at Alpena was approved on September 22nd by the same vote.

In April Sever Starkey started in the implement business in Lane, and about the same time the "Owl" restaurant was sold to Fred Oddy and the name changed to "The Hotel restaurant." In the same month a drug stock was brought to Lane and purchased by F. McCurdy who placed it in the large double building he had completed a short time before. In May Mr. McCurdy began the construction of another building south of his general store for use of the drug stock alone. The building was completed and occupied in November by Walter McCurdy, in charge of the drug department.

The W. W. Johnson Lumber Co. located a yard in Lane in April with H. O. Refvem, agent, and in the latter part of the month Wm. Brod-korb purchased the meat market. The last of the month work began on the Whitney two story building. This structure was intended for a pool hall in the basement, and to it that sport was moved about the 15th of August, the first floor for a hardware and the 2nd story for a public hall, which plan was carried out. In December David Reid built a pool hall on the east side of Main street and that has been the location of the games of pool and billiards ever since.

In May the water mains were laid deep in the ground and a system of waterworks permanently established.

The German Lutheran Church in Lane was dedicated May 21st, and

a few days later the German and English Epworth Leagues were united.

The two events in June that attracted greatest local interest at Lane were the establishment of a furniture store by G. T. England, of Wessington Springs, and a game of ball with the Alpena nine in which the Lane players were victorious by a score of 6 to 5. This practically established the prestige of the Lane ball nine, a distinction in the county which they have maintained to the present time.

In August N. P. Petersen began work in Lane as a blacksmith. Mr. Lewis Hare opened a barber shop and Mrs. Hare established a millinery shop.

On Sept. 12th The Citizens State Bank of Lane was organized with a capital of \$5,000; E. Soper, Jr., president; L. J. Grisinger, vice-president; Carl Klippin, cashier. The directors were A. Strub, F. McCurdy and Noah Kellar.

This bank began doing business in the Grisinger building on the corner south from the Farmers State Bank. Mr. Whitney had moved the hardware stock across the street west into the building he had put up on that corner.

On October 22nd Rev. John E. Hughes, Pastor, laid the corner stone of the first Congregational Church building at Lane. This church had been formed in 1903 with 14 members, with Rev. Reese of Wessington Springs supply. First pastor was Rev. Jas. Davies, 1903 to 1905. Third pastor, John E. Hughes, 1905 to 1907, followed by S. T. Beatty.

In July C. A. Voorhees moved his stock of groceries to Lane from Wessington Springs, but in the autumn sold the business to H. D. Butterfield of Mitchell who placed J. H. Miller in charge.

Sometime during the summer, or fall, Hayes Cunningham and Lindbak bought the livery business again.

About the middle of December F. E. Poole bought the barber business of Mr. Hare and has conducted the business ever since.

In March of this year Shultz and Starkey, the artesian well men, completed a well for Henry Keirien at 727 feet, in Franklin township.

In Chery township two more wells were completed during July—one for E. S. Dowling and one for M. Brenneman.

On the old John Teasdale farm in Dale township, now owned by Michael Wahl, a well was put down by Jensen in May, 810 feet. The work was done in four days.

The Fourth of July celebrations this year, (1905) were at Peiree's Grove in Harmony township, and the G. A. R. celebration July 3rd, 4th and 5th at Alpena.

In 1905 W. S. Crist brought some registered Durham cattle to Jerould county and located in Crow Lake township. This herd was gathered

in Shelby county, Iowa, and contained some of the best bred short horns in that state.

In Viola township a Sunday School and Epworth League convention was held at the German Methodist Church, commencing February 15th and continuing one week.

The postmaster at Gordon resigned in July.

In Anina township the Congregational Church was dedicated May 7th. During the summer the telephone line was extended west from the Kellogg farm in Anina to the Vessey farm in Crow Lake township.

In the summer of 1905 a meeting was held at the residence of Andrew Pflamm in Logan township, by a few members of the Catholic Church at which it was decided to build a church edifice on section 20 in Crow Lake township, to cost about \$1,500. At the meeting mentioned \$600 was subscribed. Work on the church commenced at once and mainly through the efforts of Anton Reindl the money was raised and the building completed. The church was ready for dedication in the late autumn of that year. It was named "St. Marys." It stands near the south line of section 20 and is surrounded by a cleanly kept, beautiful church yard. In the cemetery are two graves, (1908), one that of an infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Petroski, but has no inscription on the head board. On the other grave stands a pretty monument. In German text, on a white plate, is this inscription, "Heir richt Anton Reindl, geb zn Reitz in Osteweich den 10 Juni, 1848, gest in Crow Lake, So. Dak. den 7 Juli, 1905." On a lower plate are the words, also in German text, "Nur in der Kirche ist Mein Heil."

The last work of Anton Reindl was building the foundation of this church. While engaged in that work he contracted the sickness from which he died before the edifice was completed. The church society was organized by Father O'Flaherty, of the Kimball parish.

In April a cream buying station was established at Crow Lake by Turner & Son, of Mitchell.

On July 6th while helping to dip cattle at a dipping tank located at Frank Smith's farm in Pleasant township, D. B. Paddock, of Logan township, ex-county commissioner, was struck by lightning and killed instantly. A few weeks later, Sept. 16th, Ludwig Pfaff, of Crow township, was also killed by lightning.

At Alpena Castleman and Rohr dissolved partnership January 1st, the latter remaining in charge of the market at Alpena and the former retaining the business at Lane until he sold to Wm. Brodkorb in April.

In the second week in January Mason Smith sold the Revere House to W. W. Hillis.

Chamberlain & Milliken sold part of their mercantile stock to J. H.

Creighton the latter part of January to be moved to Wessington Springs, and the balance to Mrs. L. W. Castleman.

On January 20th a lodge of Home Guardians with 23 members was organized.

About the 20th of March Frank C. Wood bought the Alpena restaurant of H. A. Leighton.

In the early autumn Mrs. W. G. Milliken purchased Mrs. Eastman's millinery business.

In October A. N. Louder sold his mercantile business to E. V. Miles and E. E. Hunter.

During the same year August Holmes opened a jewelry store in Alpena.

In December, 1905, Pat McDonald began building an implement warehouse on the north side of Main street west of Tripp's drug store.

From the public schools of Alpena four young ladies graduated on May 25th. The class was composed of Misses Gertrude and May Chamberlain, Lizzie Smith and Mattie Hatch.

This year another move was made by parties from Sanborn county to divide Jerauld county so as to add Alpena, Blaine and Franklin townships to the county on the east. The move failed and now that Woonsocket has a new court house the attempt will probably never be made again.

On June 14th a swarm of bees alighted in Mr. A. F. Smith's yard and were captured and hived by H. C. Newmier. From whence the little strangers came no one could imagine.

In Sept. a star postal route was established running east from Alpena with W. H. McMillan carrier.

About \$900 were spent during the summer in repairing and reseating the Alpena M. E. Church.

At Wessington Springs:

F. M. Steere sold to J. B. Collins his interest in the telephone exchange in January and in the same month the Wessington Springs creamery was leased to the Turner Produce Co. of Mitchell.

In February J. H. Creighton opened a store on the northeast corner of Main and 2nd streets.

About the middle of the month Mrs. Minnie Easton moved her millinery stock into the Housman building adjoining Dr. Cooper's office and established the first permanent independent millinery shop in the town.

The White, Zink & Farrington warehouse north of Main street, on First street, was completed in March. In August, however, Mr. White retired from the firm and bought the R. M. McNeil stock and building on the south side of Main street.

In March and April the local telephone company extended their line east and north.

March 21st Wessington Springs incorporated as a city of the third class and the first meeting of the city council was on the evening of May 1st.

In April B. D. Olson sold his barber shop to Herbert Bryson and Ensley Shaw, and during the same month C. S. Jacobs formed a partnership with his two sons, Howard and Lewis, in the harness business.

K. S. Starkey put up a store building on Second Street at the crossing of the section line road and in November filled it with a stock of merchandise.

In July Gus Nordlie, a tailor, located in Wessington Springs and opened a shop. In the same month J. F. Spencer bought the Bateman meat market.

August 3rd Wm. Brimmer began work on the foundation of the opera house. The building was completed and opened for amusements on the 3rd of November.

Sept. 1st L. E. Ausman located at Wessington Springs and engaged in real estate business with F. M. Steere.

On October 2nd work was commenced on the Catholic Church in Wessington Springs.

The State Bank began work on their brick building at the southwest corner of Second and Main streets in the early fall and continued to the close of the year.

John W. Snart put up a building on Third street in which R. A. Bushnell subsequently started his electric light plant, and on Oct. 11th began grinding feed there. In the same month Martin Bjorlo became owner of the Slocum studio and a few days later L. R. Theeler bought the Clark dray line.

December 21st an Eastern Star Chapter with 20 members was formed at Wessington Springs.

On December 31st G. W. Bakus retired from the Dakota Sieve and was succeeded by Fred N. Dunham to whom he had sold the paper a few weeks before. The paper was changed to Republican in politics.

In the proceedings of the county board but little of interest occurred. At the January meeting Geo. C. Martin was made chairman. On March 18th at a meeting of the cattle owners of the county, called by the county auditor, L. F. Russell, was elected cattle inspector. Then the county commissioners went at work to aid the inspector to stamp out a disease that had appeared among the livestock. Dipping tanks were built in various parts of the county, at public expense and some of those already erected were purchased. It was expensive work but so thoroughly did Mr. Rus-

sell and his assistants do their duty that in two years the quarantine was lifted.

On April 7th the Wessington Springs telephone company was granted permission to set poles along the public highways of the county.

August 12th the commissioners re-districted the county into the following commissioner districts:

1st District—Blaine, Franklin, Alpena.

2nd District—Viola, Wessington Springs, Dale.

3rd District—All the balance of the county.

During the year ending April 1st, 1905, the banks paid interest money to the amount of \$415.96 on county deposits.

The teachers' county institute was held the 21st of August and continued two weeks with Prof. J. Jones, Jr., conductor, assisted by John F. Wicks and Miss Westcott.

At the Wessington Springs Seminary the graduating class was Mabel Seger, Bertha Starkey, Wilson Slocum, Ethel Seacord, A. D. Sprouse, Charles Cook, Hugh Short, Olaf Rosengren, Roy Eagle, Leonard Hitchman, Val La Bau.

The Mt. Vernon mail route was discontinued June 1st and the mail carried only to Gordon P. O. A. V. Hall became the driver on this route, while J. H. Vessey took the route from Wessington Springs to Waterbury.

Charles Walters, the postmaster at Gordon, resigned Sept. 2nd and on the 19th of the same month he turned the office over to Fred Kieser, his successor. Ten days later, (Sept. 29th), the postmaster at Wessington Springs was authorized by the department at Washington to establish Dec. 1st, 1905, Rural Free Delivery, Route No. 1 from that office as follows: Go east from the Wessington Springs office to the section line, then south $5\frac{7}{8}$ miles to the southeast corner of section 7; then west 2 miles to the southeast corner of section 11; then south 3 miles to the southeast corner of section 26; then east 4 miles to the southeast corner of section 28; then north 4 miles to the south east corner of section 4; then east 1 mile to the southeast corner of section 3; then north 5 miles to the southeast corner of section 10; then west and south 4 miles to the Wessington Springs P. O., making a total distance of $29\frac{3}{4}$ miles. An examination for carrier was held and Jay Dodge was given the position at \$750 per year, including horse hire.

A census of the county taken by the assessors in June showed but 1,152 children in the county of school age—but 127 more than at the time of the great blizzard in 1888.

Chapter 18.

(1906).

The year 1906 was ushered in with an exceedingly mild winter. While the states east and south were suffering the severities of vigorous cold the plains of Dakota seemed the abode of summer. On the 18th of February the writer found great numbers of grasshoppers, alive and jumping, on one of the highest points of the Wessington Hills. But little snow fell during the winter and there was no sleighing. The never-failing April storm came, however, with more than its usual amount of wind and snow. But as people had learned to guard against this spring storm, only slight damage was done.

In March Supt. Wilson began preparation for a county spelling contest to be held on the 7th of April. One thousand words were printed and distributed among the children of the county public schools. Each school had its trial of skill and sent its champion to the county contest. Numerous prizes were offered and the interest was great. The first prize was won by Miss Allie Nesmith, of Viola township. The judges could not say, however, that Miss Marie Davis of the same township had missed a single word. Miss Nesmith had certainly not missed any and so the decision turned on the penmanship. One letter in Miss Davis manuscript was doubtful, therefore, she was given the second prize. A free-for-all contest was then held for a set of books offered by the Jerauld County Review. For this prize Miss Allie Nesmith, of Viola township, and Earnest Simmons, of Dale township, were a tie and the set of books was divided.

In April two steam breaking outfits were started in Wessington Springs township—one by J. A. Zink with two 3-plow gangs, on the C. E. Baker farm and the other by Leo Richardson, one four-plow gang, on the farm of Lewis Tofflemeier.

The teachers' county institute was held during the two weeks commencing June 18th, Prof. Jones, conductor. This had the largest attendance of any institute ever held in the county—the enrollment being 165. John Wicks was again one of the assistant conductors.

The total assessed valuation of the county this year was \$2,520,530. In March there were but 541 farms in the county having 63,778 cultivated acres, over one-sixth of which was in Blaine township and but 740 in Crow township.

On Sept. 18, 19 and 20 a county fair was held at Wessington Springs and was largely attended.

About the middle of July the Alpena Telephone Co. was granted a right to set poles along the county highways.

A farmers telephone company was incorporated about May 1st to construct a line west from Alpena to the west line of the county. The officers were Will Linn, president; Peter Myron, secretary; Michael Wahl, treasurer. The directors were F. M. Shull, A. McLoud, Will Linn, Henry Beck, Harry Sheffield. Work on this line began about the middle of June and was completed about the middle of August. It was connected at D. M. Brenneman's with line from Wesington Springs. The telephone line running northeast from Alpena was put in working order about the 15th of July.

On May 24th the people of the west half of the county enjoyed a picnic at Crow Lake for the benefit of the Catholic Church in that township. Financially it was a success. Father O'Flaherty, of the Kimball parish, delivered an address on patriotism that has probably never been excelled in the county. On the 12th of Sept. St. Mary's Church was dedicated, according to the rites of the society.

At Lane the Congregational Church building was dedicated free from debt. The dedication sermon was by Mrs. Abi T. Huntley.

Sept. 1st Rev. Greve resigned from the Lane German Lutheran Church and was succeeded Oct. 10th by Rev. Scinski.

In the first week of January A. H. Hawley purchased the England stock of furniture at Lane, but three months later sold it to D. J. Walker.

About the same time that Hawley bought the furniture business Mr. C. A. Voorhees became proprietor of the McCurdy hotel at Lane, and on January 25th Mr. Poole bought Dave Reid's pool hall. Dave Reid then purchased the dray line from Cunningham & Lindebak and took Andrew Reid in as a partner. They continued the business until Nov. 1st when they sold to Goll & Jonker.

On February 3rd a deal was made between F. A. Franzwa and A. J. Brandenburg and his son, Otto, by which the two latter became owners of the formers building and mercantile stock which they managed until November 19th of the same year, when they sold the stock to Messrs. Burton & Craft, of Mitchell, but retained title to the building.

About October 1st Henry Schoen bought an interest in the meat market.

At the spring election the license question was before the people again and the saloon was sustained by a vote of 32 to 15.

Geo. Nelson bought the blacksmith business of N. P. Petersen about the first of September and the latter then turned his attention to the implement business.

On October 11th Dr. Martin left Lane to seek another location. On Oct. 25th Dr. Burleigh located in Lane and soon after built an office at the south end of Main street.

W. Z. Sharpe, of Artesian, built an elevator at Lane during the summer, completing it in time for the fall business.

In Chery township C. J. Bliss tried a novel experiment on his ranch. He was fattening a couple of car loads of cattle for the eastern market. Instead of turning hogs in the yards with the steers he bought 500 turkeys and turned them in. It was a great success. In January he shipped two tons of dressed turkeys to Boston, after having fed them but a few weeks with the cattle.

H. P. Will, of Logan township, was elected cattle inspector January 17th, 1906.

In Blaine township John Steichen completed his artesian well in July.

In the summer of this year L. N. Nesselroad located at Wessington Springs with a herd of registered Durham and Hereford cattle. From this herd many of the highest types of animals were sold to different parts of South Dakota and adjoining states.

Among the business changes at Alpena was one by which John Schamber, former state treasurer, became vice president of the Bank of Alpena, his son, R. E. Schamber, cashier, and J. R. Milliken, president.

Wm. Scheel bought the furniture business on the 6th day of March.

Dr. P. E. Burns, from Hornick, Iowa, located in Alpena, in June, to practice medicine in partnership with Dr. J. E. Shull.

In September J. W. Doubenmier and F. E. Manning formed a partnership to do real estate business in the name of the Alpena and Western Land Co.

About the same time W. W. Hillis leased the Revere House to Mrs. G. W. Phillips.

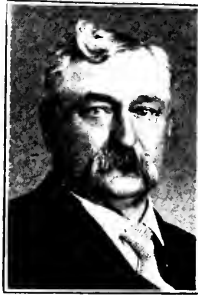
On Nov. 7 Sunday trains began running between Aberdeen and Sioux City.

Dec. 15th Geo. Hatch sold his livery barn and stock to Thompson Bros.

Business changes at Wessington Springs were also quite numerous. In January Wm. Burger purchased the A. V. Hall confectionery business, and in February the creamery was sold to Turner Produce Co., of Mitchell.

The name of The Dakota Sieve was changed on March 1st to "Jerould County Review." In the same month the Wessington Springs State Bank moved into its new brick building on the southwest corner of Main and 2nd streets. About the same time Henry Hermesen, of Coon Rapids, Iowa, bought the Bryson-Shaw barber shop.

In March, also, R. A. Bushnell took charge of the feed mill he had purchased from J. W. Snart. Later in the year, (in Dec.) Mr. Bushnell obtained from the city council a franchise to operate an electric light



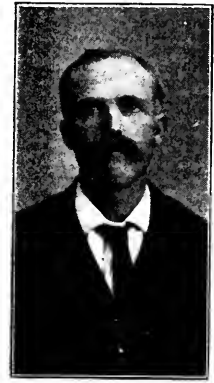
R. A. Bushnell. Thos. Shryock. John Monusey. Otto Brandenburg



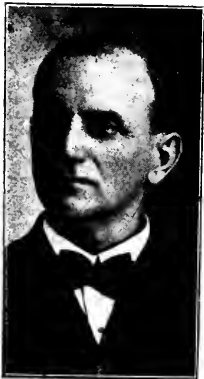
Chas. R. Hyde.



J. A. Zink.



L. F. Russell.



H. B. Ferren.



Fred N. Dunham



H. O. Refvem.

system in Wessington Springs, the power being furnished from the engines in his feed mill.

It was during the month of March, too, that Mrs. Gehan and her son, John, sold the Willard Hotel to Mr. John Verry, who took possession the first of the following October.

In the same month Mrs. N. B. England opened a millinery shop on the south side of Main St., east of the Brodkorb store.

About this time a man named Love came from Madison and organized a branch of the American Society of Equity with 35 members. John Mounsey, president; J. A. Paddock, secretary. The purpose of this organization was to regulate the price of farm products. As yet its effect has not been materially felt.

At the commencement exercises on June 6th the seminary granted diplomas to Amy A. Cook, Ethel V. Ford, George Hubbard, Sylvia McClellan, Geo. Kennedy, May Cook and Alice Vennard.

In July Bert Healy sold his rackets-store to R. M. McNeil and J. H. Creighton made a deal with Harry Webber by which the latter became the owner of the former's mercantile business in Wessington Springs. In the same month Norman Zink bought an interest in the A. W. Richardson livery business and started a bus line.

About the first of August Alden Cutler, an attorney, of Ames, Iowa, established a law office in Wessington Springs.

During the last week in August the W. T. George Co. sold their mercantile stock to Miles & Hunter, who had sold their Alpena store to F. A. Franzwa.

Dr. G. H. Richards located in Wessington Springs about September 1st.

In Nov. C. T. Christenson put up a building adjoining the Brodkorb building on the east.

On November 20th a special election was held to vote bonds in the sum of \$2,150 to buy the site for the present public school building, at a cost of \$2,000.

L. A. Mead began operations as a stock buyer at Wessington Springs in November.

Dr. Burleigh, of Lane, in November and December built a drug store building on the north side of Main street, adjoining Mrs. Easton's millinery store on the east, and in it Harry Frick began business as a druggist just before the holidays.

A P. E. O. society was formed October 24th. This is a secret organization, to a membership in which only ladies are eligible. The organization was the fourth of its kind in the state. The charter members were Mrs. Cora Miller, president, Miss Edna Butterfield, Miss Florence Moul-

ton, Mrs. Sarah Jacobs, Miss Cora England, Miss Myrtle McCray, Mrs. Mae Vessey, Mrs. Eva Campbell, Miss Myrtle Clark and Mrs. Roy McNeil. Its name was "Chapter E."

At Alpena work on the Presbyterian parsonage began in May.

At the close of the spring term of the Alpena school the following class was graduated: Percy Collier, Fred Hatch, Floyd Barber, Lea Grace.

Probably at no time since the days of the old Waterbury ball team, had so much interest centered about the national game in Jerauld county as during the year 1906. The sport commenced when the Lane nine defeated Woonsocket May 20th.

The next game was on June 8th when Alpena was defeated by Wessington Springs, score 3 to 2. The winning team in this game played Lane on June 12th and won 6 to 4. Then came the game at the old settlers' picnic, always a game of great interest, when the Lane team defeated Wessington Springs, in a very close score. On June 20th Wessington Springs played Artesian and won 8 to 1.

On June 30th Messrs. S. C. Scott, Chas. B. Marquis and W. H. Childs, of Lyons, Iowa, and E. H. Wood, real estate dealers, who had bought and sold a great deal of Jerauld county land, offered for sale at auction a large number of town lots that they had platted on some land adjoining the town of Lane. The land they had purchased embraced the Grisinger grove which was christened "Marquis Park." In preparing for this town lot sale a game of ball between the Wessington Springs and Lane teams was planned. The game was a most interesting one and resulted in a victory for Lane by a score of 3 to 1.

Four days later the same teams crossed bats at the Wessington Springs celebration where the score was 3 to 0 in favor of Wessington Springs. On July 7th Lane again defeated Wessington Springs by a score of 3 to 1.

July 18th Lane again defeated Woonsocket by a score of 7 to 2.

July 11th Wessington Springs defeated Howard by a score of 4 to 0, and a few days later in a close game between the same teams at Howard at the end of ten innings the score stood 2 to 1 in favor of the Jerauld county team. There followed a series of games by the Wessington Springs team with one from Letcher. Five games were played of which Letcher won three. Two of these games were played on August 24th and 25th at Wessington Springs. So great was the interest that all business houses in Wessington Springs were closed during the games. The game on the 24th resulted 5 to 3 for Letcher, but the one on the 25th was won by the home team 1 to 0—the only "shut-out" of the series.

The Wessington Springs team was made up of the following players: Chas. Debenham, pitcher; S. E. Pflamn, pitcher; Frank Dickerson, catcher; S. J. Whitney, T. F. Vessey, Earnest Vessey, Wm. Zink, Fred N. Dunham, C. R. Wetherell, Emil Swanson.

In politics a good deal of interest centered about the election as usual. The tickets were as follows:

Republican.

State Senator—R. S. Vessey.
 Representative—H. B. Ferren.
 Treasurer—L. F. Russell.
 Auditor—H. O. Refvem.
 Register of Deeds—C. J. Pfaff.
 County Superintendent—W. B. Wilson.
 Sheriff—H. A. Butler.
 Judge—C. C. Gleim.
 Clerk of Courts—W. F. Taylor.
 Attorney—J. G. Bradford.
 Coronor—P. E. Burns.
 Co. Com., 2nd Dist.—O. O. England.
 Co. Com., 3rd Dist.—Theo. Dean.

Democratic.

State Senator—Geo. Sickler.
 Representative—Wm. Zink.
 Treasurer—John Steichen.
 Auditor—G. W. Backus.
 Register of Deeds—G. C. Scofield.
 Sheriff—J. A. Zink.
 Clerk of Courts—Joseph Sailer.
 Co. Supt.—Dora Shull.
 Coronor—O. J. Marshall.
 Co. Co., 2nd Dist.—R. J. Tracy.
 Co. Com., 3rd Dist.—M. A. Schaefer.

Wm. Zink for representative and J. A. Zink for sheriff were both elected, all the other positions were carried by the Republicans.

Before entering upon his duties as county treasurer Mr. Russell sold his herd of Hereford cattle to L. A. Pinard of Chery township. This herd had been started by Mr. Pinard and Mr. Russell in partnership in 1893. In 1900 they divided the herd each taking half. The cattle were now united again under the ownership of Mr. Pinard, and comprised some of the best animals ever brought on to the plains.



Mr. and Mrs. Jas. T. Ferguson.



L. N. Nesselroad.



H. P. Will.



Miss Dora Shull.



Alden Cutler.

Chapter 19.

(1907).

At the first meeting in January the county commissioners elected L. J. Grisinger chairman of the board for the ensuing two years.

On July 8th W. F. Taylor resigned his position as clerk of courts and C. W. McDonald was appointed to fill the vacancy. At the same meeting the board appropriated \$600 to complete the grading of the county road extending from the top of the grade west of Wessington Springs to the top of the hill west of the Schubert residence in Media township which had become almost impassable because of the heavy rains.

There was considerable activity in religious matters in the county during the year 1907. A district convention of foreign missionary societies was held at Alpena on June 21st and 22nd.

A Free Methodist Sunday School convention was held in April on the 4th and 5th of the month.

In May a missionary society was formed by the Friends' church in Harmony township.

In Viola township a Methodist church was erected in August and September and named Tibbetts Chapel in honor of the minister who then had the Wessington Springs pastorate. This building was dedicated October 27th. The Solberg Lutheran edifice was dedicated Sept. 22nd in the northwest part of Blaine township.

The Lutheran Church, of the Missouri synod, which since 1902 had been holding its meetings at the Meyers School house in Blaine township, built a church at Lane, laying the foundation in June and completing the structure in October. They began holding meetings in the new church in November. This society had been organized by Rev. R. Ullman, in 1902, with 16 charter members.

The annual state conference of the Free Methodist church occurred at Wessington Springs, Sept. 25th to 30th.

A county Sunday school convention was held at the same place on October 8th.

About July 25th Rev. S. F. Beatty became pastor of the Lane Congregational church.

In business circles there was the usual activity. On January 1st J. R. Milliken, who had previously bought Schamber's interest in the Bank of Alpena, sold that institution to J. E. Schull, who became its president, J. W. Doubenmier, vice-president, and F. E. Manning, cashier.

At the railway depot in Alpena, C. G. Boom having been transferred to Groton, Theo. Beuhler was put in his place the latter part of January.

In April the business men of Alpena formed the Alpena Improvement Association, which was incorporated May 14th. Twenty acres were bought in the west part of the village and on it a race track was prepared. The first racing meet occurred on Sept. 4th, 5th and 6th. Horses were entered from Huron, Carthage, Plankinton and Alpena. The first trotting race was won by W. H. McMillan's horse, "Dan Sprague," and the first running race by Frank Shull's gelding, Ukiah.

In the school at Alpena, on May 22nd Beulah Milliken, Susie Rankin, Grace Ketchum, Flossie Hillis, Jessie Beals and Matthew Smith graduated from the high school department, the teacher being Prof. Hendrickson. In the autumn this educator accepted a position as teacher of mathematics in the Wessington Springs Seminary.

In the last week of August W. W. Hillis bought Tripp's drug stock and business, and united the two stocks.

Oct. 24th W. W. Hillis again took charge of the Revere House.

About the first of November Mason and Manzo Smith bought the A. W. Holmes jewelry business.

C. W. Miller became proprietor of the Alpena Owl Restaurant in the fall of the year and retained it until early in the next year when he sold it to Mrs. G. C. Haskins.

About the first of December a tri-weekly rural route was established to run south and west from Alpena with Joseph Baldwin, driver, at a salary of \$540 per year.

At Lane J. W. Mueller purchased the stock of goods owned by H. D. Butterfield, and took Mr. W. Wood in as a partner. This deal was made about January 10th.

About the same time Mrs. A. M. Johnson sold her millinery stock to Mrs. Shreve.

February 1st the Farmers' State Bank at Lane increased its capital to \$12,000.

On February 27th the town of Lane voted to incorporate, taking in the south half of section 17 and the north half of section 20.

In March Mr. F. McCurdy sold his mercantile business to Ira Stimson and a gentleman named Organ, both from Dubuque, Iowa.

About March 5th F. C. Wood succeeded Mr. Oddy as proprietor of the restaurant.

In May Mrs. Phillip became proprietor of the hotel business in Lane, succeeding David Reid.

On June 20 an I. O. O. F. lodge with 24 members was organized with Dr. Burleigh, N. G.; C. Fetzmer, V. G.; C. A. Kleppin, Sec.; L. J. Grisinger, Treas.

June 29th was Lane's day of field sports in which all of the east half of the county participated.

On July 1st the Lane saloon closed its doors.

August 17th the independent school district of Lane voted to issue \$3,000 of bonds to build a new school house.

A month later, Sept. 17th, work was commenced on the Citizens State Bank building on the east side of Main street and a week later work began on the new school house.

The next month Mr. Towsley bought the pool hall and contents of Mr. Poole.

On October 19th Craft and Burton sold their stock of merchandise to J. J. Fitzgerald & Son, who on the 7th of December sold the same property to A. J. Brandenburg and his son, Otto Brandenburg.

In the latter part of October Anderson Harris sold the Lane hardware stock to Oliver Anderson, to give possession Jan. 1st, 1908.

In November R. H. Crerar bought the furniture business of D. J. Walker.

In Chery township a branch of Wessington Springs telephone line was built from Arthur Beers' farm north to connect with the Alpena line.

The county teachers institute began a one week session on July 8th.

Beginning in the forepart of December teachers' institutes were held during the following winter in most of the townships of the county.

For many years it had been the custom of some one of the settlers who came to the county before the rush of 1883 to give a "pioneer" dinner on Thanksgiving day to the others of those who came in 1880, 1881 or 1882. In 1907 this dinner was given by Rev. J. G. Campbell. Besides the family of the host there were present the families of Thos. Shryock, Rev. A. B. Snart, M. Sheppard, C. W. McDonald, Louis Tofflemier, E. W. Simmons and John Francis.

A bowling alley was put in operation at Wessington Springs in January.

In the same month a farmers' institute by authority of the state was conducted at Wessington Springs for two days by A. E. Chamberlain, a lawyer, of Howard.

On March 1st W. F. Bancroft sold the "True Republican" to L. S. Dubois, of Huron.

On March 11th, A. V. Hall began carrying the mail over rural route No. 1, in place of Jay Dodge who had resigned.

Ten days later R. A. Bushnell placed an engine in his feed mill and prepared to give the city a system of electric lights. The lights were first turned on in May.



R. S. Vessey.

Zink & Richardson dissolved partnership the 1st of May, Zink continuing the dray and bus line and Richardson retaining the livery.

At the Seminary commencement exercises held on June 11th the graduating class were, Susie B. Kennedy, Mamie A. Reid, Eva G. Gillan, and Minnie C. Donaghue.

The Congregational churches in Lane and Anina townships were united under one pastorate in the early summer, Rev. Beatty, minister, and at the same time the churches of that denomination at Wessington Springs and Fauston were united under Rev. Reynolds as pastor, though each church retained its separate organization.

In July the city made another effort to obtain means of protection against fire. An agent visited Wessington Springs and demonstrated how easily a chemical engine would extinguish the fiercest fire. The council, acting on the advise of almost everybody, bought one.

A farmers' elevator company with \$25,000 authorized capital was formed July 26th with John Mounsey, president. The directors were E. B. Orr, John Mounsey, C. M. Brenneman, E. B. Maris, O. W. Morehead, Geo. C. Martin and J. L. Sedgwick. The company purchased the Hyde elevator, taking possession August 15th.

By August the Wessington Springs Telephone Company had increased its system, until it had fifteen lines extending to different parts of the county. The next month the company built an office on the west side of 2nd street on the alley south of the State Bank.

Sept. 21st the business men of Wessington Springs raised a bonus of \$2,000 and arranged with J. L. Coram to put up a hotel such as the growing importance of the town demanded. Work on the new hotel began about the middle of October.

On December 23rd the people of the independent school district voted bonds in the sum of \$10,000 with which to build a new brick school house.

Early in the summer of 1907 the business men of Wessington Springs employed a team of ball players which they named "The Cowboys" and sent them out on a tour of eastern South Dakota, and Iowa and Illinois. It was an advertising project for the town and as such it was a success—though expensive. The team visited Sioux Falls and Canton in this state, and then went to Sheldon, Spencer, Soo Rapids, Ft. Dodge, Humboldt, Britt, Forest City, Garner, Mason City, Osage, Charles City, Clarksville, Waverly, Elizabeth, Davenport, Sabula and Charlotte, in Iowa and Savana, Galena and Dixon in Illinois. They plied thirty-two games with the most skillful teams in the country through which they traveled, winning twenty-three of them.

In May the Alpena ball team played three games with Woonsocket winning all of them, and on June 1st played with Letcher, being beaten by a score of 1 to 0. During the Alpena field days in September the Alpena team defeated Wessington Springs by a score of 6 to 2, and Cavour 3 to 0.

In October the markets had improved so that wheat sold at 95c, oats 41, barley 82, shelled corn 46c, flax \$1.05 and hogs \$5.20.

In Viola township O. W. Morehead and Chas. Wood secured artesian wells in August.

The only thing occurring this year to effect political matters in Jerauld county, was an act passed by the legislature of 1907 placing Jerauld and Sanborn counties together in one senatorial district.

Another event of a political nature that occurred in Jerauld county, but only affecting state affairs, was the announcement in December of R. S. Vessey's candidacy for the position of governor.

The financial panic of 1907 came in October and was a surprise to the banks of Jerauld county as well as to other institutions throughout the country. But not a failure occurred. While at Wessington Springs the banks paid but \$25.00 on any one check in a day, no cashier's certificates were issued by either of the banks. At Alpena and Lane all checks were paid in full as presented.

Chapter 20.

(1908).

Of the events of local importance that occurred in different parts of the county, one was the opening of a catechism school by Rev. Witter, of Lane, in the Shultz school house in Viola township.

On July 4th the German and English Sunday schools of Viola township united for a celebration at Clodt's grove.

In Logan township the most important events of a public nature were the completion of the telephone line from Kimball to Glen which was done in July. The P. O. at Glen was discontinued and a R. F. D. route was established in February.

In Anina township on July 11th, Jas. T. Ferguson, treasurer, paid off the last of the debt contracted in 1884 to build the school houses.

On October Walter A. Hyde bought the Templeton store of G. M. Titus and became postmaster at that office.



Old Settlers' Picnic at Peirce's Grove, 1908.



One of the Springs.

In Marlar township C. F. Scofield resigned as postmaster at Hyde postoffice and the office was moved to the residence of L. W. Kreidler on Feb. 21.

In the town of Lane the building for the Citizens State Bank, on West side of Main street, was completed in January and became the home of that institution.

On the first day of the same month W. R. Hubbard became part owner and cashier of the Farmers' State Bank.

On the 15th of January the public school moved into the new school building.

Mr. J. H. Mueller, of the firm of Mueller & Wood committed suicide on the 2nd day of January and on the 19th of March, Ira Stunson purchased their stock of goods.

On December 3rd, the first church bell in the town of Lane was put in position in the Congregational church.

At Alpena Mason and Manzo Smith sold their stock of jewelry to Loren Laghry, on January 1st.

In connection with the Presbyterian church, a Y. P. S. C. E. was organized on January 20th.

A daily rural free delivery route was established February 1st running south and west with J. F. Baldwin carrier.

M. G. Shull, who had purchased in 1906, the pool hall from J. F. Spencer, sold that institution to Roy Triplett during the first week in February.

A few days later C. C. Rohr sold the Alpena meat market to F. Mann, of Iroquois.

On March 10th Dr. D. D. Burns formed a partnership with his brother, Dr. P. E. Burns, and located in Alpena to practice his profession.

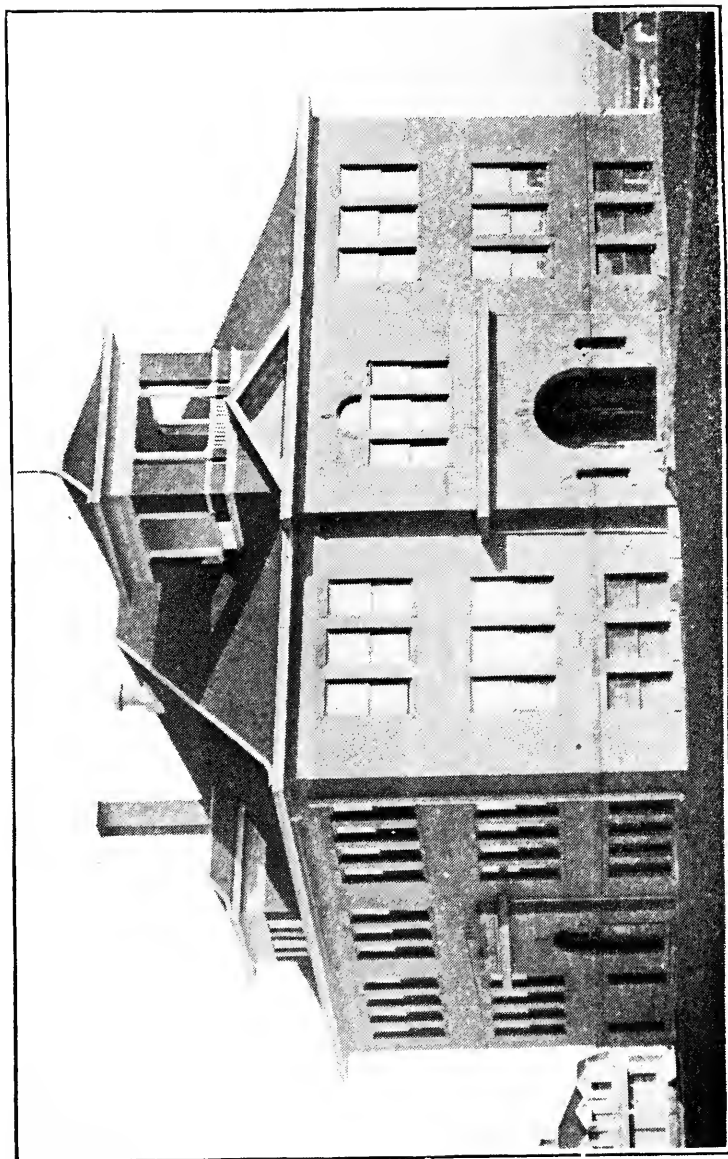
In the Presbyterian church Rev. Williamson resigned his pastorate April 5th and was succeeded by Rev. D. J. McLeod.

In April a rural free delivery route was established to run northeast of Alpena with Edgar Wales as carrier. He was succeeded in July by E. P. Kelly.

During the night of June 16th occurred one of the most remarkable things in the history of the country. Shortly after midnight there came a terrific down pour of rain. In the morning every little pool that contained a bucketful of water had in it from one to a dozen or more pickereel minnows, all about two inches in length.

Alpena had a celebration on the 3rd and 4th of July at which the races on the course were excellent.

An exceptionally pleasing feature of the two-days of sport was the Shetland pony race. The animals were all owned in Alpena. Five ponies



Wessington Springs New Public School Building.

entered the race; Topsy, owned by Roy Millhause; Crickett, owned by LaRue Manwaring; Silver Bell, owned by Mary Castleman; Gold Dust, by Cleo Castleman; Dandy, by L. W. Castleman. They made the quarter-mile dash in a bunch. The first heat was won by Crickett, Everett Haskins, rider; but the little mare Topsy, ridden by Orville Eaton, was so close a second that interest in the second heat ran high. Again the bunch of boys and girls and ponies came over the course, all close together, and Topsy won by half a length. It was evident by this time that the first place lay between Topsy and Crickett. In the third heat the line of racers was more extended, but the little mare and her small competitor came in neck and neck, each little rider doing his best to win. The most frantic cheering of the whole celebration occurred when little Topsy passed under the wire a neck ahead. Gold Dust was ridden by Cleo Castleman; Silver Bell by Mary Castleman, and Dandy by Marshall Corbin.

On November 18th, F. A. Franzwa made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. All were paid in full, the liabilities being about \$14,000 and the assets \$17,000, besides his two store buildings, at Lane and Al-pena.

About the first of December, Mrs. W. G. Milliken purchased Mrs. Van Houten's millinery stock and business.

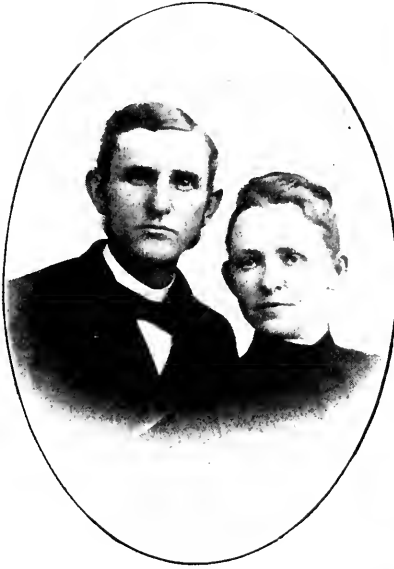
In January, two petitions asking for free rural mail routes from Wessington Springs were circulated one for a route running north, circulated by J. H. McVey and the other circulated by Henry L. England, of Harmony township for a route running west.

At noon on January 22nd, the alarm of fire was given in Wessington Springs, for the old Seminary was burning. The chemical engine proved worthless in that emergency, because of the location of the fire, which had started in the coal bin of the laundry. The building fell in about an hour after the fire was discovered. In February enough money had been subscribed to build another, and far better, seminary and the architect's plans accepted. At the same time the same architect submitted plans for the new public school building which was also accepted. The contracts for both buildings were let to the same man and work commenced June 12th. While the new building was being arranged for and built, the work of the seminary was carried on at the court house. In July the building that had been used for the public school was sold to the seminary and moved to the campus for use as a dormitory. Both the new buildings—the seminary and the public school—were completed ready for use in November.

The city voted in January to issue bonds in the sum of \$23,500 to build a system of waterworks by utilizing the big spring. On March 15th,



Ernest Vessey.



Prof. and Mrs. J. K. Freeland.



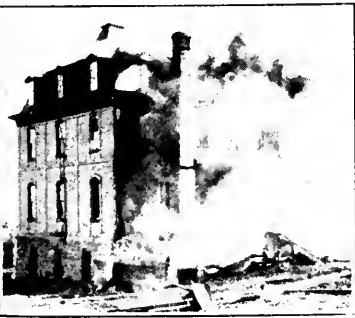
W. R. Hubbard.



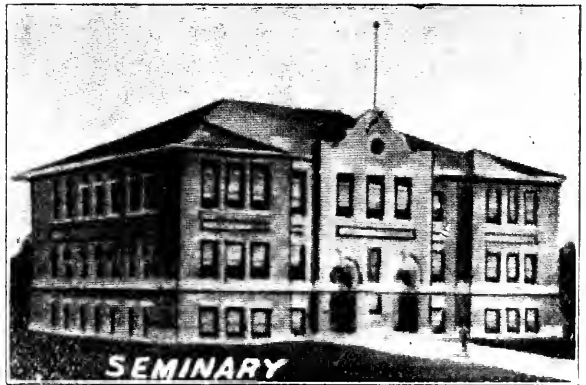
Chas. W. Miller.



Milo Putney.



Burning of the Seminary.



The New Seminary.

a contract was made with the Western Engineering Co., W. L. Bruce, engineer, to complete the work, as it now exists. A deed to the big spring and the land needed was obtained from the old townsite company for \$3000.

One of the most important of the many great things done for Wessington Springs in the year 1908, was the opening of the Oliver Hotel. J. L. Coram, proprietor, which occurred on February 28th.

The hook and ladder trucks arrived in February the necessity for it having been demonstrated by the burning of the seminary.

In March arrangements were made with the government weather bureau office at Huron by which the predictions were each day phoned to the central office at Wessington Springs and by it sent over its various lines.

On March 3rd, President Roosevelt nominated to the U. S. Senate. Fred A. Dunham to be postmaster at Wessington Springs. This appointment was confirmed on May 22nd and he became postmaster on July 1st in place of W. F. Bancroft, who had resigned. About the same time he purchased Mr. Bancroft's interest in the Jacobs-Bancroft building and moved his paper, the Jerauld county Review, to the rear of the room occupied by the post office.

Henry Pfaff re-opened his bakery in April in the building west of Dr. Cooper's office.

In the same month a Rebekah lodge with 44 members was established at Wessington Springs with Mrs. Louise Gregory, N. G.

About the same time the W. W. Johnson Lumber Co. sold its yards in Jerauld county to the Hayes-Lucas Lumber Co.

It was in April also that Miss Goldie Atkins opened the Cozy Cafe in the old Herald building on the north side of Main street. She sold the business to Earl Hawthorne in October.

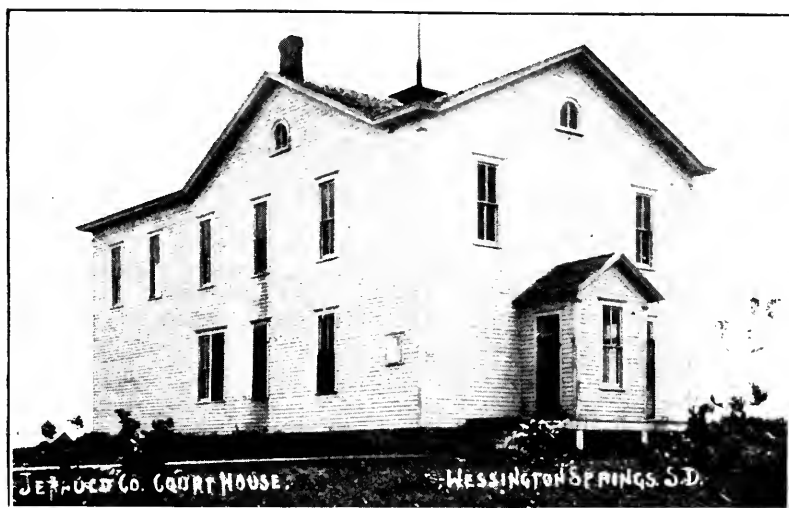
On May 5th M. Lawson, of Parker, S. D., rented Bjorlo's studio and located in Wessington Springs.

The Wessington Springs Seminary on June 3rd granted diplomas to its graduating class—Mary L. Thompson, Leonard V. Hitchman, Jennie L. Dolliver, Gottfrid Bern and Mable F. Remster.

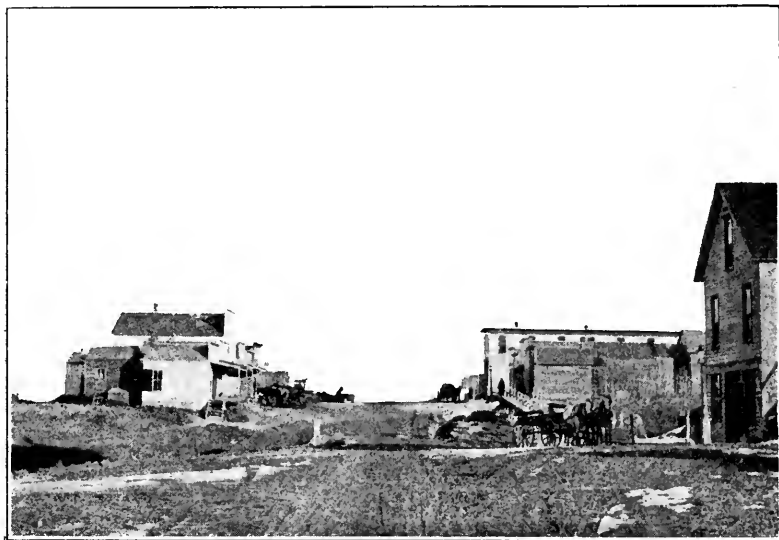
About the first of September, James Greenlee, from Coon Rapids, Iowa, bought an interest in Hermesen's barber shop, located in the old building where Ford and Rich had their "law and land office" twenty-five years before.

In the same month, L. S. DuBois sold The True Republican to H. A. Short.

Dr. Keene located in Wessington Springs to practice medicine, also in September.



Jerauld County Court House.



Wessington Springs 1899.

In October the firm of Dill & Reese purchased the Herman Brod-korb grocery stock and building and began to do a general bakery business. Mr. Brod-korb retained his meat market business until the latter part of December when he sold it to Messrs. Hutchinson & Sleeper, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

On the 16th and 17th, of October, the Catholic ladies of Wessington Springs and vicinity held a church fair which produced a net income of over \$500.

During many years the contests in temperance oratory had been continued. Of the young people of Jerauld county who had won prizes in local and district contests Philip and Florence Moulton, Mrs. W. F. Bancroft and Laura Easton, all of Wessington Springs, had each won diamond medals.

In the same month occurred the first game of foot ball ever played in Wessington Springs. The players were the Woonsocket high school eleven and the Seminary. The result was a victory for Woonsocket 15 to 2, but in December another game was played in which Woonsocket was defeated 11 to 0.

In October Mrs. Esmay purchased the millinery business of Mrs. N. B. England.

About the middle of November the Wessington Springs Hardware and Implement Company, a corporation was formed. It took in the stock of both hardware stores and the stock of T. L. White was moved across the street to the Zink & Farrington building. The president of this company was Joseph O'Brien and the directors were P. H. Shultz, N. B. England, Wm. Zink, J. H. Farrington and T. L. White.

The new brick school house at Wessington Springs was dedicated November 20th.

In December Mr. Bruce Bruntlett, of Kimball, built the Wessington Springs mill and about the same time A. M. Rasmussen opened a shoe store in the room vacated by the White hardware store.

In the month of December S. T. Leeds, who had set some traps by the lakes in Media township was greatly surprised to find two jack snipes caught in the traps he had set for mink.

Among the matters of county importance was the Free Methodist Sunday school convention held in February.

April 9th the county commissioners changed the places for selling property at chattel mortgage sales to H. A. Butler's livery barn in Wessington Springs, Thompson's livery barn in Alpena and Cunningham & Clodt's livery barn in Lane.

Early in the year a petition was circulated, to which the required number of signatures were obtained, asking for an increase of the num-



Second Wessington Springs School House.



First Wessington Springs School House.

ber of commissioners from three to five. On the 22nd of April the board called in the county auditor and the county judge and divided the county into five districts, as follows:

1st Dist.—Franklin and Blaine townships.

2nd Dist.—Alpena, Dale and Chery townships.

3rd Dist.—The city of Wessington Springs.

4th Dist.—Anina, Viola and Wessington Springs townships.

5th Dist.—The balance of the county not included in the other four districts.

For the extra commissioners they appointed W. H. McMillan of Alpena for the 2nd district and Herman C. Lyle of Anina township for the 4th district. Mr. McMillan afterwards declined the position and Ray Barber, also of Alpena, was given the office.

The county teachers' institute began August 17th and continued two weeks with Prof. Ramer of Mitchell as conductor.

The legislature of 1907 had enacted a primary election law and the old time caucus, unregulated by law, was gone forever. For the first time in the history of the state, all the people had a direct voice in the nomination of candidates. The primary, or nominating, election had been held in June by the Republicans and the following ticket put in the field:

Senator—A. Williamson of Sanborn county.

Representative—W. H. McMillan.

Treasurer—L. F. Russell.

Auditor—H. O. Refrem.

Clerk of Courts—Jas. T. Ferguson.

Register of Deeds—Chas. H. Hyde.

Attorney—J. G. Bradford.

Sheriff—C. W. Miller.

County Supt.—John F. Wicks.

Judge—C. C. Gleim.

County Com., 1st Dist.—Geo. E. Whitney.

County Com., 2nd Dist.—Ray Barber.

County Com., 3rd Dist.—H. C. Lyle.

On the state ticket R. S. Vessey was nominated for governor.

The Democratic party took no part in the primary election, but nominated the following ticket by petition:

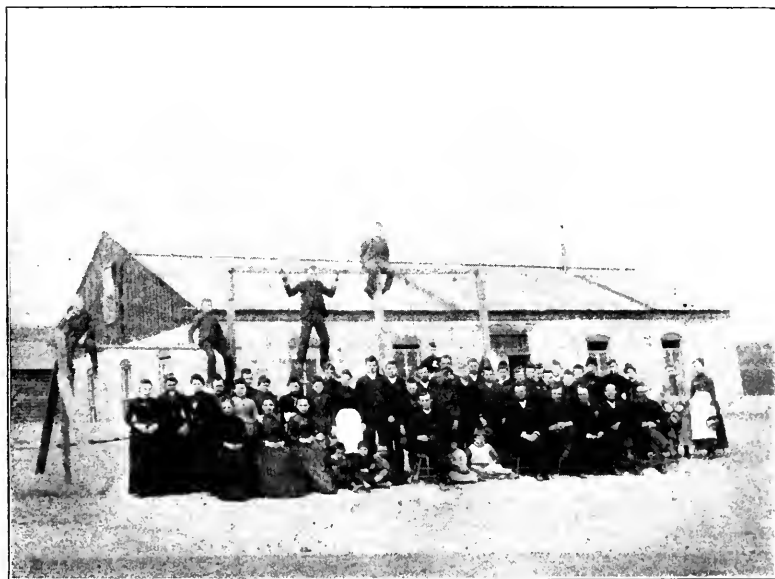
Senator—Noah Keller, of Sanborn county.

Representative—T. L. White.

Treasurer—G. W. Backus.



Reservoir at the Big Spring.



The Beginning of the Wessington Springs Seminary.

Auditor—W. F. Yegge.

Register of Deeds—S. E. Pflaum.

County Supt.—Dora M. Shull.

Sheriff—Nels Petersen.

Clerk of Courts—Geo. W. Titus.

County Com., 1st Dist.—Jos. Steichen.

County Com., 2nd Dist.—T. M. Thompson.

County Com., 3rd Dist.—P. Christensen.

At the election in November 1129 votes were polled and all the Republican candidates were elected except the candidates for Co. Supt. and Representative. Mr. Vessey was elected governor of the state.

On December 4th, just prior to his removal to Pierre the governor-elect was given a splendid reception in the new high school building by the people of the county.

In compiling this history of the county, I have not been able to give a complete account of the artesian wells that have been put down in the county, because some of the well drillers have kept no record of their work. Mr. W. P. Shultz, of Viola township has furnished me with a complete list of the wells drilled by him prior to January 1st, 1909. It is as follows:

George Clodt, Sec. 17, Viola, 1894, 800 feet deep.

P. H. Shultz, Sec. 9, Viola, 1894, 880 feet deep.

Chas. Walters, Sec. 15, Viola, 1895, 830 feet deep.

Mr. Campbell, Sec. 6, Blaine, 1896, 725 feet deep.

Carl Beug, Sec. 25, Viola, 1898, 760 feet deep.

Earnest Schmidt, Sec. 14, Dale, 1899, 817 feet deep.

Wm. Klein, Sec. 25, Chery, 1900, 920 feet deep.

Up to this time Mr. Shultz had worked with a machine driven by horse power. Afterward the work was done with an engine.

J. E. Shull, Sec. 2, Marlar, 1900, 1725 feet deep. (No water).

K. S. Starkey, Sec. 26, Wessington Springs, 1903, 800 feet deep.

P. H. Shultz, Sec. 29, Viola, 1903, 810 feet deep.

Frank Villbrandt, Sec. 20, Viola, 1903, 890 feet deep.

Wm. Daleske, Sec. 14, Dale, 1903, 816 feet deep.

Earnest Villbrandt, Sec. 2, Viola, 1903, 725 feet deep.

Ole Solburg, Sec. 1, Viola, 1904, 735 feet deep.

Jos. Steichen, Sec. 27, Blaine, 1904, 725 feet deep.

K. S. Starkey, in Wessington Springs City, 1904, 1030 feet deep.

W. T. McConnell, Sec. 12, Chery, 1904, 800 feet deep.

Larry A. Pinard, Sec. 1, Chery, 1904, 88 feet deep.



Jas. R. Dalton.



J. B. Collins.



Theo. Dean.



W. P. Shulz.

Louis Hillbrandt, Sec. 3, Viola, 1904, 840 feet deep.
 O. W. Morehead, Sec. 10, Viola, 1904, 860 feet deep.
 W. P. Shultz, Sec. 27, Viola, 1904, 830 feet deep.
 J. N. Smith, Sec. 17, Viola, 1904, 840 feet deep.
 David Burnison, Sec. 4, Franklin, 1904, 740 feet deep.
 Henry Kneiriem, Sec. 8, Franklin, 1905, 750 feet deep.
 Paul Kleppin, Sec. 32, Wessington Springs, 1905, repair, 1098 ft. deep.
 H. F. Shultz, Sec. 9, Viola, 1905, 890 feet deep.
 Geo. Clodt, Sec. 17, Viola, 1905, 940 feet deep.
 Aug. Scheel estate, Sec. 31, Alpena, 1906, 715 feet deep.
 Adebar Bros., Sec. 25, Dale, 1906, 800 feet deep.
 Justin Schmidt, Sec. 25, Wessington Springs, 1906, 725 feet deep.
 Mr. Friest, Sec. 5, Blaine, 1906, 780 feet deep.
 L. D. R. Kruse, Sec. 14, Viola, 1907, 730 feet deep.
 O. F. Kieser, Sec. 35, Viola, 1907, 780 feet deep.
 Max Wetzel, Sec. 26, Viola, 1907, 776 feet deep.
 O. W. Morehead, Sec. 28, Wess. Sprs. Twp., 1907, 930 feet deep.
 B. F. Wood, Sec. 28, Wess. Sprs. Twp., 1907, 780 feet deep.
 S. T. Smith, Sec. 18, Viola, 1907, 930 feet deep.

Chapter 21.

PRAIRIE FIRES.

Because of the great number of prairie fires that have devastated Jerauld county during the past twenty-five years I have seen fit to put the record of those events in a chapter set apart to that purpose.

The following account of a fire that occurred March 26th, 1885, is taken from an old copy of the Waterbury News then edited by C. V. Martin.

"The most destructive fire that has swept the beautiful prairies about Waterbury, occurred on Thursday of this week. About noon a black cloud of smoke was observed off to the northwest, being swept south by a perfect gale of wind. Little by little the wind veered around more into the west and soon the flames could be seen darting up all over the neighboring hills. Nearly every man and boy in Waterbury then armed themselves with wet blankets and other weapons to fight the flames and struck out into the country to help some of the neighbors who were unprotected. The fire in the mean time was going at the rate of twenty miles an hour

down Crow Creek Valley, licking up hay stacks and stables in its path as if they had been so much tinder.

When the fire reached Clay Platner's old place (the NE of Sec. 19), Stillman Moulton and brother, who had gone a little beyond, to try to save a haystack belonging to them, were caught in the flames and their faces, hands and feet were fearfully burned—so badly that the skin on Still's face and hands had fallen off in places, before he reached town. The boys suffered terribly, but Dr. Miller, their physician, thinks they will pull through all O. K. if they are careful of themselves.

At Joseph Ponsford's place the fire destroyed his hay stable and grain, but he managed to save his stock, though he was slightly burned in doing so. On the wild fire sped across the Crow Creek Valley and up to R. A. Wheeler's stock farm, and here the worst damage to stock was done. The stock yards had been protected last fall by a slight firebreak, but owing to the dryness of the grass and the high wind, this break was altogether insufficient, although the grass was small and stubby on the knoll where the yards were built. This fact was realized by the men about the place as soon as the fire was seen coming and they immediately went to enlarging the firebreak, but they had commenced too late, and before they had accomplished anything, scarcely, the fire was upon them. It jumped the break as easily as if there had been none in the way, and caught in the yards and stables where 45 head of fine young cattle were penned up. The poor creatures ran bellowing into the stable where in a perfect pandemonium of bellows, which their suffering elicited, they were burned alive.

The wagons, plows and other farming machinery belonging to the farm were either all, or in part, burned up. This is a most disastrous blow on the most estimable, but unlucky, Wheeler. Last winter his home with its contents was devoured by the flames, and now a greater calamity has befallen him. Not only is his stock and machinery gone, but his wife in her heroic endeavor to save their little property, was dreadfully burned. This terrible fortune can not always follow and Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler should not be entirely discouraged, as people of their industry will soon recover, even from their great loss.

The town of Waterbury was at one time during the day in great danger, but by the united and energetic effort of the citizens it was soon secure from any danger of the fire."

A few days later, April 1st, during a heavy southwest wind a fire started near Crow Lake and burned among the hills to a point near Turtle Peak northwest of Wessington Springs. The wind then turned to the west and the fire was blown down into the valley until it reached the line between Chery and Dale townships. The wind then shifted into the north

and drove the long line of flames straight at the town. There was quick work at the county seat that afternoon to save the town from destruction. A firebreak was made by backfiring along a wagon tract from the residence of Hiram Blowers to Dr. Mathias' drug store, which checked the head fire and the side fires were soon extinguished.

In March of the previous year a fire in Dale township had burned a barn and two cows owned by Chas. Eastman and a barn each for Ed. Harinston and O. W. Richardson.

In Viola township, on Sept. 4th, 1884, Fred Kieser's barn and about 40 tons of hay were burned, and on the 7th Mr. Palowski's wheat stacks were burned. On the 24th of the same month a prairie fire swept over the northwest part of Viola township destroying about 100 hundred tons of hay for Dr. Nesmith. On September 20th of the year following fire again visited Fred Kieser, this time set by a steam thresher, and burned about 75 bushels of flax, a large amount of hay and his cattle and sheep sheds.

In Alpena township a prairie fire in November, 1883, burned over sections 9 and 10 in Alpena township, destroying some hay, a stable and a cow belonging to the Campbell boys.

In the fall of 1884 a shanty on E. T. Bowen's claim in Anina township was burned together with about 50 tons of hay owned by A. D. Cady and a stack belonging to E. B. Orr.

On April 24th, 1888, a fire, driven by a strong south wind, swept across Chery township from the north part of Media and burned large quantities of hay for F. M. Brown, M. S. Thornton, M. E. Small, K. Blanchard, L. F. Russell and Roth Bros. On the same day a prairie fire in Franklin township destroyed a stable owned by Mr. Goll.

In Crow township, in 1886, J. A. Paddock's house was burned in a prairie fire and the next year his stables and granary were destroyed with all his seed corn and 500 bushels of oats.

There have been innumerable prairie fires of which no record has been kept, and of which no one has more than a vague remembrance, in which no damage was done, except to destroy the grass and take from the ground the natural covering that conserved moisture. But the year 1889, probably witnessed more destruction by fire, not only in the state at large, but more particularly in Jerauld county, than in any other year in its history.

The fires began raging in March. On the 22nd of that month a fire came from Hand county and burned over a portion of the north part of Marlar township. Two days later the residence of Sidney McElwain, in Pleasant township, was destroyed. The next day, March 25th, another fire from Hand county swept through, west of the central part of Har-

mony township and also of Pleasant to the north line of Crow Lake township.

On the 28th of March a fire started on Section 10 in Harmony township and burned southeast destroying all but the houses for N. J. Dunham, I. N. Rich, A. G. Snyder and H. L. England.

The 2nd day of April, 1889, will never be forgotten by any one who was in any part of South Dakota on that day. Early in the morning a strong wind, accompanied by electric currents, began blowing and soon increased to a furious gale, having a speed of over 80 miles per hour. There had been but little rain during the previous autumn, light snow in the winter and the spring rains had not yet come. Everything was dry.

In Hand county, near Ree Heights, on the NE quarter of section 17—112—72 lived a man named Ingram. On the morning of April 2nd, 1889, while standing near his stable he lit his pipe and threw the match down on a pile of dry manure. Mr. Louis Kreidler, now of Hyde P. O., this county, saw the fire leap up from the spot where the match was thrown and start on its career of destruction. Directly in its course lay all of the western half of Jerauld county. With a head fire miles in length it reached Marlar township about noon. It struck the township at the extreme northwest corner where Nathan Mighell lived on the NW quarter of section 6. All his buildings were destroyed in a few moments. On the NE quarter of the same section Kane Marlar's buildings were all burned, and the same fate befell the residence of Arthur Hudson on section 5, B. F. Marlar on section 4 and Frank Bemis on the SW quarter of section 3. So suddenly did the fire come and so great was its extent that the people had no opportunity to help each other. As the flames swept southward the destruction was terrible. The general course was a little east of south touching the east side of the claims of Wm. Grace and Zachariah and John Groub. A few sections in the southwest corner of Marlar township was all the unburned prairie left for pasture in that part of the county. To the eastward of the Grace farm J. M. Corbin lost his stables and live stock. His house was saved by Mrs. Corbin, who carried dry dirt and threw it upon each spark as it caught upon the roof and sides of the building. Henry Daniels lost his buildings and hay. Wm. and Frank Scofield lost 20 head of cattle and the large barn on Wm. Scofield's claim. Mark Scofield, who lived on section 26, lost everything. On section 11 John Ruan lost his barn, while Tillman Hunt, on section 31, lost all his buildings. On the same section Mrs. Rosa Knight lost her stable. Fearing that the house would also be destroyed she carried her furniture out on to the garden spot, but as luck would have it, some sparks caught in the furniture and it was burned, while the house was saved. On section 29 Wm. McLain lost all but his house and on the next

section 28, John Buchanan lost everything. The claim of Morris Curtis, the SW quarter of 33, was swept clear of all buildings, while Mr. Landcaster on SW quarter of 32 lost all his stables and hay. Mr. Hillman lost his stables and Calvin Hain and Frank Danburg lost all they had.

When the flames left Marlar township only five stables were standing within its limits and ten houses and been burned. The fire struck Crow township just west of the Martin ranch, where the stables, hay and grain were lost. By this time the fury of the gale filled the air with dust, smoke, ashes, bits of grass and flying debris of every description, to such an extent that the smoke could not be distinguished, except by the smell, and the flames could not be seen at a distance of one hundred yards. Shingles, light boards and wisps of hay carried fire though the air and lighted a fire far ahead of the main conflagration. A board set fire to the grass near J. A. Paddock's farm in Crow township after having been carried by the wind over two miles. He lost two small stables. South of Paddock's in Logan township lived J. A. Riegel. He was at one of the neighbors in the forenoon when he became alarmed by the smell of smoke and hurried home. In a few moments the fire was all about the buildings. Mrs. Riegel assisted in fighting the fire until all seemed lost when she took her little child and ran to the garden spot where she knelt and protected the infant as best she could until the fearful holocaust was past. The house was saved and the animals, that had gathered on a plowed field, were also saved. The out buildings were all burned.

All that part of Pleasant township lying west of the strip burned on March 25th, was swept by the flames. In this part of the township lived Frank Smith, E. J. Holdridge, B. R. Shimp, W. A. Dean, J. W. Barnum and others. The fire made a clean sweep and left nothing except the claim shanty of Miss Kate Salter. The fire traversed nearly all of the center and west half of Crow Lake township, reaching the lake at the Dusek farm, about 1:30 P. M. At the Sailer farm Ed. and Bymo were badly burned while trying to save their property from the flames. John Vanous, on section 9 lost his barn and team. The flames passed around the lake and spread out over a large part of Aurora county.

But the fire did so much damage in Marlar, Crow, Pleasant and Crow Lake townships was not the only one to rage in Jerauld county that day. There were so many, in fact, that it has been impossible to trace the origin of them all. Some were started from burning straw stacks, some by people trying to burn around their stacks or buildings to protect them from an approaching fire. The latter was the case with Mr. Pryne, of Pleasant township, who tried to burn about his hay stacks to save them from a fire he feared was coming. The neighbors extinguished

the approaching flames, but the conflagration he started escaped from his control and destroyed all of his stacks.

The numerous fires that occurred in March served as a warning to the people of Chery township, and Messrs. Hill, Horsley, Shaefer, Lewis, McCullough and others, burned a firebreak along the foot of the hills in that township. This enabled them to fight the blaze off from their valley farms, but it swept southward among the hills. In Media township George Dean lost all but his team and threshing machine not even being able to save his clothing or furniture.

Jas. T. Ferguson, in Anina township, having his own place reasonably well portected, brought his team from the stable to take a barrel of water to the assistance of some of his neighbors. While hitching the horses to the stoneboat the wind picked it up and hurled it with terrific force against Ferguson, cracking his skull, breaking his chest bone and one rib. Frank Voge lost everything but his house; John Shultz lost a valuable patch of small fruit; George Kalb lost his machinery and stables; E. J. Gates saved everything but his hay, but came near losing his life; Geo. Winegarden lost his barn, stock, hay, grain and machinery; E. H. Ford lost his claim shanty and its contents and Chas. Ferguson had his cattle, sheep and corral burned.

In Viola township the Houseman school house was burned; Chas. H. Stephens lost his barn and all his hay. W. W. Goodwin lost his stables and a number of animals, and John Phillips saved nothing but a few cattle.

Mr. Mihawk, in Wessington Springs township, had everything burned.

In the northeast part of Franklin township the flames destroyed all buildings owned by Wm. Posey except his house, and also his animals and poultry.

In Alpena township the Woodruff ranch was swept clean of all buildings; Fred Heller saved nothing, but one team and harness; R. J. Eastman lost his barn, hay, grain and some stock and his father lost his house.

The foregoing is but a partial account of the losses sustained in Jerould county on the 2nd day of April, 1889. The total damage in the county was estimated, at the time, at \$100,000.

As in all great calamities, many remarkable things occurred, but only a few can be mentioned here. In Marlar township, the families of Tillman Hunt and some of his neighbors, being driven from their homes took refuge on a plowed field between two ridges of high hills. The flames jumped across the valley and then drawn together came rushing toward the narrow field from both sides. For a moment the heat was

intense and the people on the field suffered greatly, but escaped with only a few blisters.

During the years that followed many fires were started by people who without proper care attempted to burn fire breaks about their buildings, or stacks, and allowed it to escape. On May 8th, 1893, a fire started in that way in the north part of Anina township, burned south to Horse Shoe Lake destroying some buildings and a large amount of hay.

On the 23rd of April, 1892, Frank Weeks, in Harmony township, lost all his farming tools and some of his buildings by a fire that came from the south, W. C. Grieve lost ten acres of trees that were burned by the same fire.

All the grain and all buildings except his house were burned by a prairie fire, for Peter Klink in Viola township in Sept. 1891, and on the same day Mr. Kasulka lost a bin, containing several hundred bushels of grain, by the same fire.

On Aug. 13th, 1895, during a spell of dry weather, lightning set fire to the prairie grass and much of the west part of Anina township was swept by the flames.

More than the usual number of fires occurred in the year 1898, about the first of which was started a few miles south of Wessington Springs on the 20th of March, and burned over a great extent of pasture land.

Another fire came into Jerauld county on April 4th, 1898, at the northwest corner of Chery township, and burned to near Templeton before it was extinguished. A few days later a fire escaped from a burning stubble field and burned over several sections in Media township. But little damage was done by either of these fires except to the prairie grass land.

On April 3rd, 1898, a fire started from the old P. B. Davis farm in Chery township and was driven by a strong northwest wind until it had destroyed a large quantity of hay belonging to Joseph and John Brown. On Sept. 1st of the same year a fire started north-east of Templeton and burned southeast destroying hay for a number of settlers. F. M. Brown and W. H. Cogshall lost most heavily.

The year 1899 was another season of heavy fire losses. About April 10th two fires were started near Alpena by sparks being blown from burning straw stacks to adjacent prairie grass. In one instance the stack had been burning over two weeks. A great quantity of hay was destroyed.

A fire started from a burning straw stack in the eastern part of Harmony on April 17th, burned with a hard west wind to the railroad track

north of Alpena, destroying a large amount of property on the way. One of the Chery township school houses was destroyed by this fire. Aaron McCloud, whose residence was directly in the course of the flames attempted to save his buildings, but the back fire he started jumped past him and destroyed everything he owned but his land. The fire he was trying to guard against burned on both sides of the spot where his buildings had stood. On the same day a fire in Franklin township again burned the property on the Wm. Posey farm.

April 28th, 1899. Another day long to be remembered by the people of Logan, Crow, Pleasant and Crow Lake townships. About the middle of the forenoon a dense cloud of smoke appeared in the south along the road toward Kimball. Some one, too indolent to have a due regard for the welfare of his neighbors, had applied a match to a field of dried weeds he had permitted to grow during the previous season. A strong south wind increased as the fire advanced. There was not a moment's pause at Smith Creek south of the old town of Waterbury. Here was located one of the best bridges in the county. The structure would have been destroyed but for the heroic efforts of little Katie Main, who kept the fire away. The county board rewarded her with a ten dollar warrant and a vote of thanks. The wind carried the blazing grass across the creek and straight toward the almost deserted village on section 21. There was no one in the town but W. E. Waterbury and the mail carrier from Wessington Springs. Waterbury met the fire in the valley south of the townsite and succeeded in keeping it on the west side of the road until it was well past the village. Then the unexpected happened. The wind which had been blowing a gale suddenly shifted into the northwest and doubled its velocity. The blazing grass and refuse of the prairie were hurled across the road and again the fire was racing straight at the deserted buildings, landmarks of a once thriving market place. Soon but two structures were left to tell where the street of the village had been.

Being thus doubled back upon itself the fire soon burned itself out in Crow township except a backfire which was soon subdued.

When the wind changed a black strip, about three miles wide, extended from the south line of Logan township to near the center of Crow. On each side of the blackened prairie side fires were burning and eating into the dry, standing grass. Now the line of fire on the west became a backfire working slowly against the wind. But all that long line on the east became a head fire. At this time there were less than a thousand acres of cultivated land in either of the townships crossed by the fire.

Neither in Logan or Crow township was there as much as a section of plowed land, all told. So there was but small chance of stopping the line of head fire, now many miles in length that was rapidly charging eastward. At the residence of Henry P. Will, the bulk of the property was saved, but Mrs. Will was caught in the flames and seriously injured.

On its way north the fire had destroyed the Fordham and Long residence, in Logan township, and after the wind changed the houses of Meyers, Pflamn and others in the same township were destroyed. The old Combs and Harris shanty in which Peter J. Rhobe was killed by Ben. Solomon several years before, had been moved to the residence of A. E. Hanebuth in Logan township, and, it also, was burned.

In Pleasant township a great deal of property was destroyed. In Crow Lake township Geo. Deindorfer, who lived on section 10 lost all his buildings, while on the old Menzer ranch, west of Crow Lake a man named Russell saw his corral, sheds and 1100 head of sheep destroyed by the fire.

In the autumn of the same year the residence of Earnest Schmidt in Dale township was destroyed by fire. Two years later, on April 20th, a fire started from a straw stack, that for several days had been burning on the NE quarter of section 22 in Harmony township, was driven north into Hand county. In this fire a man named Hanks, living just over the line, in Hand county, was surrounded by the blazing prairie and burned to death. On the same day a fire started from near the center of Dale township and burned north about twenty miles into Beadle county.

In 1903 a fire started in the northwest part of Crow Lake township and burned south and east until stopped by the township fireguards that had been made through the center of the township.

In Dale township on Sept. 9, 1904, a fire destroyed a large quantity of hay belonging to L. F. and A. Russell and a lot of fencing on the old Vanderveen farm. On the 27th of the same month lightning started a fire in the same township that destroyed many stacks of hay on the Firesteel bottom.

On November 3rd, 1906, some section men, who were burning off the right of way to prevent fires being started by passing engines, allowed the flames to get away from them. About 80 tons of hay were destroyed of which fifty belonged to Paul Kleppin.

In November, 1907, a prairie fire in the southern part of Logan township burned ten stacks of hay owned by H. P. Will.

Last spring, (1908), sparks from a stack that had been burning two weeks, in the northwestern part of Blaine township, were blown into the adjoining prairie grass and started a fire that did immense damage in the southern part of the township and in Sanborn and Aurora counties.

RETROSPECTIVE.

When the author started out to gather the material for this history he began to learn to ride a bicycle. This search for incidents and anecdotes brought up many recollections which were set down in a series of articles entitled "Among Review Readers," which were published from week to week in the Jerauld County Review. This chapter is composed of extracts from those articles, which were historical in character.

I left Wessington Springs Monday afternoon April 12th, 1908, and led my wheel to the top of the grade west of town, and then, for want of a track smooth and wide, I led it on down into Hay Valley. There I got a chance to "spin," which I did—till I was dizzy—the wheel seemingly being made to roll toward town. I took the wire caps off the pedals and then got on very well—leading the "bike" along the pike.

A heavy smoke to the southwest attracted my attention and I kept on in that direction until I reached the corner of the old McGinnis place and then the smoke having subsided, I turned north to the residence formerly occupied by Jos. Rumelhart, and got a drink of splendid water. It is now owned by Mr. Carl Rott, who moved onto it the first of March from Audubon county, Iowa. From there I went west to where young Mr. Barnes was busy at work putting in wheat on a farm his father had rented from Amos Gotwais.

I continued the wrestle with the wheel and worked on west till I reached the beautiful home of Jas. Rundle. Here I took another drink of the cool, pure water that one finds everywhere in this county. This quarter section was taken by M. D. Crow as a homestead in the spring of 1883. The remains of his sod house now constitutes a black mound in a cultivated field at the northeast corner of the farm. Ray Holtry was earning his wages from Mr. Rundle in a desperate effort to make a walking plow scour.

I leaned my wheel against the fence and took a walk into the field south of the Rundle farm to the spot where Chas. Kugler built his shanty in the spring of 1884. He lived on that place as his homestead till the 12th of January, 1888. The next day he and his yoke of oxen were found

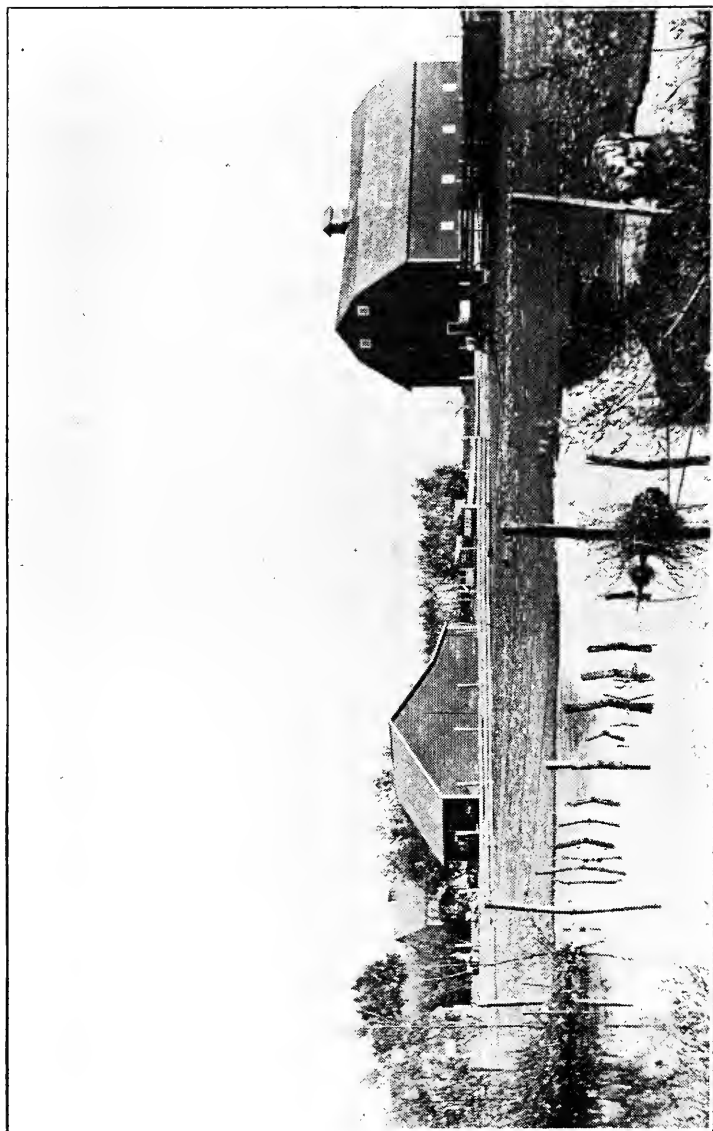
frozen to death near the residence of James T. Ferguson in Anina township. He was lost in the great storm.

From the site of the Kugler shanty I could see the old house with the stone basement, where Gil Albert assumed the judicial ermine and with magisterial dignity conducted the examination in the then interesting case of the Territory of Dakota vs. Herb Gailey. I appeared as attorney for the prosecution, and C. V. Martin and E. C. Nordyke for the defense. Geo. N. Price was constable. For two days and one night the combat raged. This was in April, 1889. This case closed at about 8 o'clock in the evening of the second day in the midst of a violent snow storm. The case being closed and the defendant being held to court, the attorneys, witnesses and prisoner piled into Mr. Price's two-seated buggy and started for the Springs. On the way we met C. W. McDonald and E. L. Smith, wading though the snow going to court in obedience to a subpoena issued by Justice Albert in the morning.

Breaking away from these reflections I came back into the road, seized the refractory wheel and set off north, past the old J. N. Cross place with its reminders of early days. A peep into the now open cellar of the old grout house for which hopes of county seat honors were once entertained, and a pleasant thought of the days when Will Ingham and J. E. McNamara ran the Jerauld County News in an office room on the second floor, while the aged friend of Whittier and Longfellow, Rev. John Cross, whiled away his time in his library below. I picked up the wheel and wrestled on north till I met Mr. Leander Bennett on the quarter-section taken by E. L. DeLine as a homestead in 1883. Mr. Bennett has the place rented for this year, but will go to Wyoming as soon as seeding is done to visit his son and look for a farm on Uncle Sam's domain.

At D. O. Eddy's home I stopped for the night, finding that the wheel, as well as myself, was somewhat wobbly. Dick has one of the best farms on the westside, good building, plenty of horses, cattle, and hogs, a half-section of land and his seeding well along. He and his excellent wife have demonstrated what a young couple can do by grit and industry on South Dakota soil. The next morning I went on as far as Templeton.

A fierce north wind put out of the question, the plan of going in that direction any further Tuesday evening, so I jumped on the wheel (two or three times), and went to the home of Mr. M. E. Fee, where I had a really pleasant time in comparing twenty years ago in Dakota with the same time in Nebraska. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fee had interesting experiences in the great blizzard of Jan. 12th, 1888, which reached their homes in Antelope county about one o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Fee was at Neely, Neb., assisting a neighbor to make final proof on a homestead and



Residence of Nick Steichen, in Blaine Township.

was held by the storm until the 13th. Mrs. Fee, then a school girl, was attending a school taught by Miss Fee, now Mrs. Ray of this township, about a half mile from Elgin, Neb. She made her way home, about a mile, through the storm, but will never forget the experience.

Wednesday noon I jumped on the wheel again and walked to the old Jimmy Hoar place where he settled in the spring of 1883. He had moved there from Earlville, Ill., and built the house that now stands on the farm. Here his wife died, his daughter was married, and his son died. Uncle Jimmy then went to California to live with his daughter, Mrs. G. S. Eddy, where he still makes his home.

I then wrestled with the wheel to the old J. M. Hanson place, at the head of Long Lake. This is where Mr. Hanson settled as a homesteader in 1883, abandoning his occupation as a sailor on the Great Lakes to become a Dakota farmer. He lived here until he died, about 1898.

Literally working my way along with the wheel, I passed the well known residence of Allan G. Snyder, who could not repress a few pointed jokes at the combination of myself and the wheel. He enjoyed this all the more because of a prolonged wrestle I had with the machine just before I arrived at his house. I rode and led the wheel, by turns, until I had passed around the south end of the lake and reached the home of H. L. England, where I received a hearty welcome and gladly accepted his invitation to stay the night. Mr. England's comfortable home, a view of which appeared in this journal a few month ago, needs no description. Suffice it to say that sitting in his well furnished rooms made pleasanter the reminiscences of the old times when things were different.

Thursday morning I rode as far as T. D. William's bachelor residence on Sec. 13 and got the use of his phone to tell the "Review" office who were new subscribers. For twenty-five years Mr. Williams has lived on this land, raising grain and cattle, independent and happy, monarch of all he surveyed. He has the best marked herd of Herefords in the county, numbering 102 head, all his own raising.

The next place I visited was L. G. McLoud's, who, working alone, can, year after year, put in as much crop and get as big a yield as any other man in the county who gets along without other help. He was almost done putting in 130 acres of small grain and will soon commence plowing for corn. For fourteen years Mr. McL. has farmed this place and never had a bad crop.

A few steps further and we found Will Davis pushing the work on the old Louis Nordyke homestead, the SW of 17. Mr. Davis is living on the John Gilbert farm, the NE of 17, where that pioneer lived for twenty-four years the lonely life of a bachelor, but by hard work ac-

cumulated a competence. In far away Oregon he now resides with his brother, H. T. Gilbert.

Down in the valley to the south half of 18, I went and found Scott Starrett and his son-in-law, Earl Tripp, living on the quarter section that during the hard times of years ago was the abiding place of G. W. Titus, who is now a retired farmer at the county seat. Another order for the paper and I wrestled on against wind and wheel till I reached the cosy domicile of that prince of good fellows, Lyman Butterfield. Old times, jokes and politics, all in jolly good-nature, till eleven o'clock and then I went to sleep to dream of continuous wrestling, catch-as-catch-can, with a bicycle.

Friday morning, bidding adieu to Lyman and his good wife, I climbed to the top of the hill and then getting a "hip-lock" on that "infernal" machine I mastered it and in the still morning air and over the smooth roads I had a delightful ride. In a few minutes I passed the former home of B. S. Butterfield where the old veteran and his aged companion celebrated their golden wedding a few years ago.

At Schuberts hill, three miles west of town named from a German farmer, father of Oscar Schubert, who had a homestead there several years ago, I turned northwest and past the Dr. Mathias tree claim, Will Spears and Myron Pratts 80 acre homesteads, Conway Thompson's pre-emption, homestead and tree claim; past Harl Stowell's old homestead, where John Brown now raises mighty good crops every year; past Geo. Pratts quarter where he had a claim many years ago; then by Doc Harris mile-long homestead filed in 1883, and so on, memory stirred by the things a quarter of a century old. I found Mr. P. A. Thompson, who has rented the O. O. England ranch, in Harmony. He was hurrying to get his 50 acres of small grain sown before the rain came, so as to be ready to commence breaking 50 acres of sod for flax. This land was taken by O. O. and C. W. England when there was not another ranch between James River and Fort Thompson. They brought a thousand head of sheep with them and made shelter for their flock by stripping up the sod from the prairie and building sheds covered with hay. A rough claim shanty completed the pioneering outfit. Here they continued the sheep and cattle industry until from the profits of the business a fine farm house and good sheep and cattle barns were erected on what is known as one of the best farms in the county. O. O. England, now a county commissioner, lives in Wessington Springs while uncle Charley enjoys continuous summer in California.

After taking Mr. Thompson's subscription I rolled on north past the house built by John Murphy, of Amboy, Ill., in the summer 1883. He came to this county with J. R. Eddy and located his homestead here.

Wednesday noon I took dinner with Joe Hunt, who lives on the old Fizenmeier claim in the northwest corner of Harmony township. The house in which the old German lived is gone, but a new and commodious house stands on the hill, near by. Another old building, now used as a granary stands near the site of the old claim shanty, and was made by moving the house from the Orcutt farm over the way to which an addition was built.

In my trip about the township I was surprised to find that only two of the settlers who located here in 1883, are still residing in the township—T. D. Williams and A. G. Snyder. Of the others, some have retired from farming and live at the county seat and some have left the state.

After dinner, April 22nd, I left Joe Hunt's and crossing the road entered Marlar township at the farm of Edward Tiede, located in section one. Two new barns and a granary have been added to the improvements since Mr. Tiede came on here in the fall of 1906. This season he will have 90 acres of old ground in small-grain, besides all the breaking he can do. Part of this farm was entered as a homestead by Al. Seizer in 1883, and later was all included in the Shull ranch. The balance of the Shull ranch is now owned by Gustave Tiede, brother of Edward, and Wm. Tiede father of both. New buildings, new fences, new breaking, and excellent farming are features of their work. Gustave's new house, a two-story structure newly plained outside and finished inside with hard oil, is certainly a beautiful home. In 1883 this was Hub Emery's homestead.

South of Wm. Tiede's is the new 640-acre farm of Jacob Hasz. Everything shows the marks of industry and good farming. A fine grove protects the farm buildings from the cold of winter and heat of summer. This grove was set out by Mr. Bemis on his tree claim in the 80's.

About the middle of the afternoon I reached the home of J. M. Corbin. Mr. Corbin has for many years been a teacher among the Indians on the western reservations, but has retained his residence in Marlar township. The boys, Cass, Marion and Sidney, with their sisters, made my visit a very enjoyable one. My last visit to this family was in 1884, twenty-four years ago. At that time they were new comers, and like nearly all others, were experiencing the discomforts of pioneering. Then they lived in a "dug-out," of which only the spot now remains. On this visit we entered a large well furnished house and about supper time were joined by Mr. Verry of the Willard hotel, and Mrs. Louis Mead, also of Wessington Springs. During the evening I listened to some really excellent music; Mrs. Dickinson, the oldest sister, at the piano, her husband Mr. Dickinson, last year in the Springs ball nine, playing the guitar, and

Mr. Mead playing on the violin. All the instruments are high priced and the players evinced a skill hard to excell. The entertainment was closed by a few pieces with Marion at the piano and Mrs. Dickinson playing the violin. But few times in my life have I heard better music. Verily, twenty-five years in Dakota, though twenty-five miles from a railroad, have wrought wonders.

I then started on my return to Wessington Springs, and passed the old home of Uncle Billy Orr, who was for many years the representative of that township at the republican county conventions, and for a while the only republican voter there. He was proud of the fact that he had not "scratched" a ticket in thirty years.

After my return from Marlar township I went to Franklin.

On the NW quarter, 17—107—63, Mr. T. Chandler, who came here from near Woodward in Boone county, Iowa, in the spring of 1906, has built a fine new house and barn, and has a comfortable home. This is part of the land patented to Will Houmes by President Harrison nearly twenty years ago.

On another one of the old Houmes quarters, the SE of 8, in Franklin township, lives Paul Kleppin and his wife, formerly Tillie Brodkorb of the Springs. They have a good new house and barn and their prospects are good.

The old Zink farm in north Franklin was purchased by Mr. Hoffman who came from Wisconsin, in 1897. New buildings have been built for all farm purposes and he now has valuable property. A half-mile further north I. P. Ray settled a quarter of a century ago and lived on his land until he was offered \$10 per acre and then sold and went to Kansas. The same land is now owned by Mr. Hoolihan and would be called cheap at \$45.

Good improvements of every description are on the farm of Jacob Mees, the NE of 5. He moved on this place April 4th, 1885, paying \$1000 for a relinquishment. Last summer he refused an offer of \$55 per acre. While I was chatting with him he was setting out a large strawberry bed.

Across the line and I was in Alpena township at the old Gorman tree claim which is still owned by the man who "took" it from the government. At the south west corner of this quarter is Fairview cemetery.

I have often thought that the history of a community might be very well written in its cemetery. I leaned the wheel against the iron gate and spent a half hour among these memories of the past. The spot is beautifully located and well kept.

On variously colored head stones I read the following inscriptions of long ago:

"Jennie N. Harmon, wife of Z. T. Harmon." Beside the mother, in a thicket of rose bushes were two little graves each marked "Our Baby."

"James Otis Gray" is another name of the early times. He died Nov. 1st, 1888. He was one of the first magistrates of the county.

Another stone brings thoughts of the fatherland across the sea. It reads as follows:

"SOPHIA SELZ,

Geb

July 28, 1837.

Gest

Feb'y 24, 1907.

Christus ist mein leben und ster ben mein gewinn ich habe lust abzuscheiden und bei Christ zu sein."

The name of August Scheel calls to mind a sad accident on the 19th day of May fourteen years ago.

A plain stone, bearing the inscription, "A. L. Eager, Co. B., 3rd Wis. Inf.," nothing more, is rich with thoughts of other scenes and other days. The story of that regiment is all the encomium, desired by the simple soldier, who rests here, alone, far from the comrades who marched with him in the campaigns of the army of the Potomac.

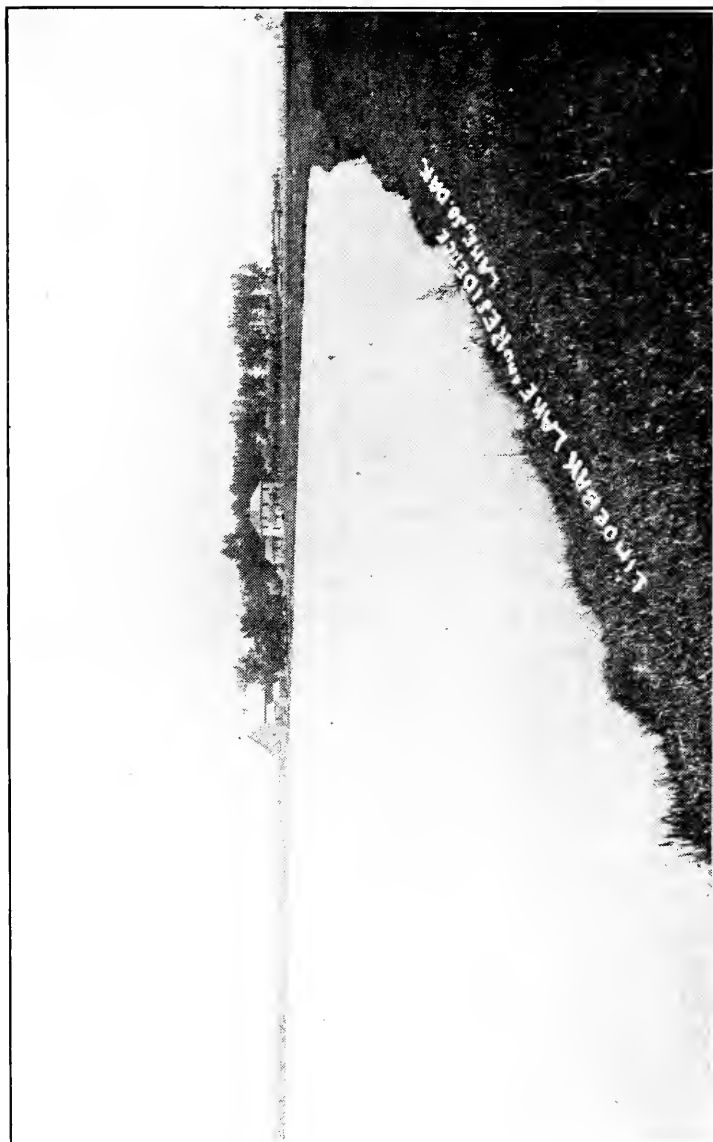
Many are here of more recent burial, but space is limited and I must go on.

On the S half of 32—108—63, I met William Brandenburg, one of the earliest settlers of the county, who has a magnificent farm, and has found that Dakota, as territory and state, has been a good country in which to live. His son, Fred, living a short distance further north was the second child born in the township; the first being, Miss Scheel, now the wife of William Ahart.

In Alpena the changes have been so many, that I cannot mention all.

Of those who spent the winter of 1883 in the village of Alpena, W. W. Hillis, the druggist, alone remains. He has prospered in the years that have silvered his hair. He always has a good word for the town in which he lives. For 24 years the drug store has been in the same building, and during 23 years of that time Willis has been behind the counter, either as clerk or proprietor.

Of the rest, many are gone out of the knowledge of those who knew them here. W. H. Arne, upon whose pre-emption claim the town is located, is living at Cottage Grove, Oregon, where his son-in-law, Frank Phillips, also resides.



Residence of O. O. Lindebak, in Franklin Township.

Jeff Hillis, the last of the '83 settlers to leave Alpena, now lives at Hillsdale, Oregon, a neighbor of Andrew Mercer, an early settler of Dale and who proposed the name adopted by that township, in 1884.

Ray Barber, at different times, hotel keeper, hardware merchant and liveryman, is now devoting his time exclusively to real estate, and the care of the several farms he owns in this vicinity.

An issue of the Jerauld County Journal, under date of February 22nd, 1884, published by Loomis & Davis was loaned to me by Mr. J. D. Chamberlain. From it I quote the following items that were of interest to the pioneers of that day:

"Linn commences that livery and feed stable next week, we understand."

"Frank Wheelihan proves up on his dirt next week. No more visits to the claim for him."

Among the list of final proof notices I found the names of John Dukes and Sgt. John McKown, whose names I saw yesterday on the headstones in the cemetery. Other names in the list were George Whealen, Fred Busse, John E. Cook and Henry C. Neumeyer.

The issue of April 9, 1897, of the paper, the name of which had now been changed to "The Alpena Journal," contains the following interesting notes:

"A vote of thanks is due L. N. Loomis for walking to Woonsocket last Friday and returning on Saturday with the mail pouches."

"The Dakota Sieve, of this county, came out last week printed on the official blank ballots, the 'insides' not having arrived, on account of wash-outs."

The livery business that has been run by numerous owners since the days in 1884 when Wallace Linn hired broncho's, broken and unbroken, to traveling customers, is now controlled by Thompson Bros, who own as fine a livery property as the state affords.

The NW of 7—108—63 and the NE of 12—108—64, is a half section upon which Pat McDonald, for several years sheriff of Jerauld county, kept a bachelor establishment in the '80s and early '90s.

The SW of 6 was for many years the homestead and residence of J. H. May, a judge of the probate court, and for several years county and township justice. The farm is now the property of Fred Brandt, but is being cultivated by Rob't Richey, who is also tilling the NW of 7.

I had reached the west line of the township and, leading the wheel through the prairie grass, along a "blind trail," I bent my steps toward the home of Mr. H. C. Newmeyer, a grand army veteran, where I hoped to get the records of W. H. L. Wallace Post. The indications of rain were strong but the wheel and I kept up our usual speed, when walking.

To ride the bike up and down the steep hills and gullies that cross the township line, and through the heavy grass, was impossible. Just as the big drops began to fall I arrived at the door of the hospitable Pennsylvanian, and then for several hours watched one of the heaviest rainstorms I ever saw. While the rain was falling I obtained from the G. A. R. records the extracts that I wanted, and then spent a very pleasant evening with Mr. Newmeyer and his son.

The SW of 18—108—63 and the NE of 13—108—64, has been for nine years the home of Geo. Reinhart. He has 90 acres in to crop, and was hurrying the breaking plow to get more land on the NE of 13 under cultivation. On this quarter-section Jesse Beadell and his grandmother, Mrs. Phillips, spent the night of Jan. 12th, 1888, under an overturned sled. The next morning the lad started for assistance, but did not go far before he succumbed to the intense cold. Relatives, a little later, found his lifeless body, and rescued the old lady badly chilled.

Frank Phillips lived for several years on the north half of 19—108—63, and secured title to it from the United States. The NW quarter of this section is now owned by Dr. Shull, of Alpena, who also owns the SE of 13 in Dale township. From the Phillips quarter the buildings have been removed, but good ones stand on the quarter across the road where the Doctor has made his improvements.

The other Phillips quarter, and the south half of the section, together with a fine quarter in section 24, of Dale, is now owned and occupied by H. A. Munson, formerly of LaFayette Co., Wis. His farm extends across Sand Creek, affording running water in his pasture, while a strong artesian well furnishes the same for the farm yards.

The north half of Pat Conlon's old homestead, the SE of 18, and the north half of Jim Conlon's homestead, which was a mile long on the west side of 17 and also the homesteads of Hugh and Mike Moran, comprising all of the north half of 18, are now owned by Albert Krueger, who came here from Buffalo county and by energy and economy has built up a splendid home. He has in 175 acres of crop.

On the 20th day of May I got back to Wessington Springs, having led the bike all the way from Lane in the face of a strong west wind. But I reached the "hub of the universe" at last and stopped for a moment in front of the First National Bank, and my weariness brought to my mind one day twenty-five years ago when footsore, tired and hungry I stopped at that same spot in front of Tarbell's hotel. Then I had walked from H. D. Fisher's claim in Franklin township, in October snow and mud. Then the twenty feet of board floor to the hotel porch was the only piece of sidewalk in the town. The hotel was owned and run by L. H. Tarbell and J. H. Woodburn.

East of the hotel was the building that now stands on the west side of T. L. White's hardware store, but then only reaching back to the window. In that building Morse & La Pont lived and kept a hardware store. In the building where Mr. White now stores machinery, east of Alden Cutler's law office, Silas Kinny kept a general store, using the back part for a residence.

Opposite Kinny's store and a little east, stood Stevens Bros.' general store, a one and one-half story building, the upper story being occupied for living rooms. West of this stood the building now occupied by Henry Hermesen for a barber shop. Over its door was nailed a sign which read, "Ford & Rich, Law and Land Office," painted by J. H. Kugler.

Still further west, in the room now used by S. T. Leeds for his Cozy Cafe, was the printing office of McDonald and Bateman in which was published the Wessington Springs Herald, the first Jerauld county newspaper.

On the ground where Ausman & Wallace now have their real estate office, stood the law and land office of Drake & Magee. The little building in which the pioneer firm did business now stands in the rear of the present office, which was built by Mr. Drake in 1885.

On the south side of the street, on the now vacant lot adjoining Shull's drug store on the east, stood the law and land office of Dunn & Hackett.

On the lot now occupied by the west side of Shull's drug store, stood Bender's drug store managed by Chas. P. Taylor.

On the lots now owned by Geo. N. Price, south of the city hall, stood the livery, feed and sale stable owned and operated by Bert Orr, now of Pleasant township. Near where the hotel Oliver now stands was a school house built by private subscription.

A blacksmith shop owned and run by J. H. Woodburn, had been erected on the ground now occupied by F. M. Brown's livery barn.

One more building, what is now the old Carlton House, then known as the Applegate building, and in which the True Republican was started in November, 1883, by W. S. Ingham and myself, completed what constituted the business district of Wessington Springs.

The residences of Rob't Bateman, C. W. McDonald, R. M. Magee, A. B. Smart and H. Blowers were the homes of the city aside from the business houses. Of these oldtimers, McDonald, Smart, Woodburn and Orr alone, remain in the county.

That was Wessington Springs the first time I saw it. The origin, growth and development of the town will be much more fully given in the history of the county.

Of the men who were in business in Wessington Springs in October, 1883, except as before mentioned, the following is the record as nearly as I can ascertain:

L. H. Tarbell and Augustine La Pont are dead.

J. D. Morse is at Boulder, Colo.

C. H. Stevens is at Athens, Penn.

H. C. Stevens is in Colorado.

Silas Kinny moved from Jerauld county to Sioux City.

Thos. Drake moved from here to Faulkton, then to Redfield, next to Pierre and last to Seattle, Wash. His partner, R. M. Magee, is at Chadron, Neb.

Wm. Bateman is in the government printing office in Washington, D. C.

Chas. P. Taylor is in Minneapolis.

Jas. T. Ford is living in Los Angeles, California.

I. N. Rich is in general merchandise business at Hubbard, Iowa.

Thos. Dunn is said to be at San Francisco and Collins E. Hackett is at Friday Harbor, Wash.

Rob't Bateman is in the pension department at Washington, D. C.

W. S. Ingham is running a newspaper in Butte county, S. D.

Hiram Blowers died of tuberculosis somewhere in Minnesota.

On June 27th I started north from Wessington Springs along the line between Dale and Chery townships.

Out of the center of the north half of thirty-one Maj. Wallace took his pre-emption claim. He made a tree-claim out of the center of the south half of 30, leaving a strip a mile long and eighty rods wide extending along the town line from the west quarter-corner of 31 to the corresponding corner of 30. This strip was afterwards taken by a widow named Mrs. Baker.

The east half of the NE 31, with the west half of the NW 32 was homesteaded by C. D. Brown, who was the first man to bring a family into Dale township.

The east half of the SE 30 was thus left as an isolated 80, and upon this E. Taylor, a son of W. F. Taylor, filed a declaratory statement.

All of section 30 is now owned by Mr. W. F. Harding, but is occupied by Mr. J. Barber, who came from Henry county, Illinois, and rented the farm the first of March, this year. He and his two nephews have in 300 acres of crop that bid fair to reward them well for their labors.

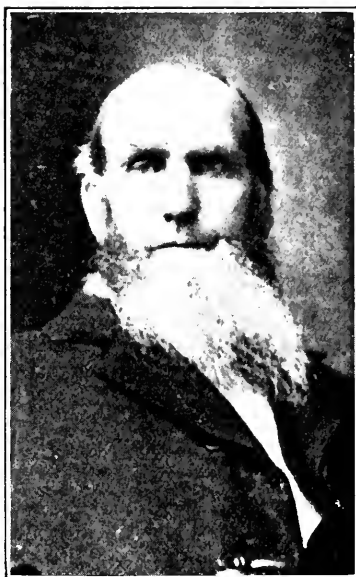
The north half of 30, a quarter of a century ago, was the home of Dr. E. L. Turner and his father. The doctor had the NE quarter and the old gentleman the northwest. E. L. Turner was an excellent physician, good hearted, kind and faithful. Reticent by nature, he shrank from the

prying of the curious and, when not ministering to the wants of his patients, would sit for hours brooding over the wrongs that had ruined his family and his life.

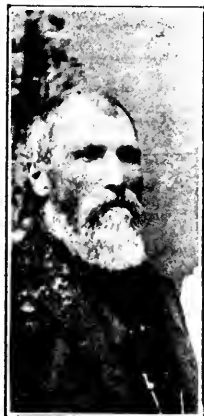
North of the Turner land is the SW of 19 where Will Eagle had a tree claim when the settlements were new. On this quarter, in 1889, ended an event which has never been told. A young fellow had been arrested on a far-fetched charge of house breaking. The case was commenced before C. W. Hill, at that time a justice of the peace of Chery township. A change of the place of trial was taken and the case went before Squire Van Voorhis, of the same township. A contest over a technicality in the complaint resulted in a dismissal of the action. He was immediately rearrested, on the same charge, on a warrant issued by G. R. Bateman, a magistrate of Wessington Springs. The district attorney, A. Converse, had now taken hold of the case. Again the quibbling over the papers resulted in the discharge of the prisoner, who was allowed his liberty while the district attorney made a new complaint. A new warrant was issued and placed in the hands of the sheriff. The attorneys and justice remained in the court room while waiting for the officer to bring in the defendant. The minutes dragged on into hours and supper time approached. J. R. Francis entered the room from his office and after looking about for a minute, remarked, "What are you fellows waiting for?" "We're waiting for the prisoner," replied the justice. "Well," said Francis, "I saw him about two hours ago, with his coat over his shoulder making good time toward the hills. You fellows might as well go home." "It's a trick," said the district attorney, "but I'll have that fellow 'bound up' to court if I have to follow him to Kingdom Come." A few minutes later the boy's father and attorney were in a lumber wagon driving north along the road at the foot of the hills. A short distance north of the Wallace gulch the boy ran down from the hills and climbed into the wagon. The team was then turned east for Alpena. When they reached the SW 19 they saw a single rig approaching from the south, and so close that it was impossible to escape, if the rig contained any one interested in knowing who was in the wagon. The boy leaped out and, running a few yards, threw himself down in the short grass, where he kept his head bobbing up and down to see who was coming and whether he was discovered. Sure enough, the buggy contained the sheriff, who drove up to the wagon, stopped a few moments, remarked about the crops, thought maybe it would rain, though it was one of the dry years of early days, and then drove off, passing within ten feet of the bobbing head without once looking toward it. The boy, terribly frightened, climbed to his seat in the wagon and silently rode away into the night. He has never been seen in the county since.



H. A. Short.



Dr. M. W. Nesmith.



M. A. Shaw.



Frank and Will Eagle.



Mrs. M. A. Shaw.

Across the road, west, in Chery township, on the SE of 24, now owned by F. Spears, Will Eagle had a pre-emption claim in 1884—85. He bought a relinquishment of Ole Nelson, a Norwegian.

Three cottonwood trees grew for years near where the claim shanty stood. One of the trees has died and fallen. The heat was intense when I reached this point and I thought to sit on the trunk of the dead tree, in the shade of the live ones, and write up the notes of the road thus far. The only things left on this quarter to mark the early habitation, are the trees, the rank grass, a few stones with which an attempt had been made to dam the little run, in which water sometimes flowed, and the mosquitoes, of prodigious size, full grown I think, probably the same that drove the hardy Norseman to sell his claim. I postponed the note writing and moved on.

A short distance further north I saw an argument, big as a load of hay, in favor of better roads. It was left there by Ed. Dwyer, who lives on the W. T. McConnell farm in Dale, which comprises all of section seven. About two miles of the best improved highway is needed on the township line across the Firesteel bottom.

The north half of 19 in Dale was taken by L. F. Russell, present county treasurer, and his father, Lawrence Russell, as pre-emption claims.

The SE 19 was the homestead of Marc. Thomas, a young man well known to all the early settlers of the township. He now lives in Missouri.

After passing Ed. Dwyer's load of hay, I led the wheel north over the partially dried road, past the SW 18 where Hale Cleveland had his quarter of government land, and also past the NW of the same section, where W. H. Robeson, from Davenport, Iowa, "held down" a homestead claim.

At the Tracy school house, which stands on the southwest corner of section 8, I stopped and entered. The doors were unlocked and the room looked as though a town meeting had been recently held there. The building is in fair condition, considering its age, 24 years, but the foundation needs attention. Good firebreaks surround it and but little trouble would be experienced in protecting the house from prairie fires.

From there I walked south, most of the time in Eagle's pasture, in 17, because of the moist condition of the road. When almost at the next section line, I came to the Firesteel Creek, which had "tumbled out of bed," and lay spread out considerably. No bridge or turnpike, there was nothing to do but turn back to the school house. All of section 17 is owned by B. F. Eagle, who has it fenced in for pasture and it makes a good one, plenty of grass and watered by two artesian wells located on adjoining land.

The SW of 8, was the residence of Jake Rosenthal and his wife, a couple who 20 years ago were well known in Jerauld, Sanborn and Beadle counties.

Turning east along the south line of section 8, I soon reached another stream, which George Washington could have jumped before he became president. But I am not a George Washington, and besides he couldn't have done it with a bicycle. Across the little stream, on the SE of 8 is the substantial home of John Scott. I saw Mr. S. north of a good sized hog pasture plowing corn. I lifted the bike over the fence, passed over the creek on a stone crossing, swung the wheel over another fence and got from Mr. Scott the story of his farm. But he informed me that the bridge was gone from where the creek crossed the road on the east side of 17, and that my surest way to get south was to go back through the hog pasture to the road, get over the fence into Eagle's pasture again, and strike the east line of 17 south of the stream. I did so but had to spend considerable time in repeatedly driving off the herd of cattle in the pasture. The wheel aroused their curiosity and they seemed determined to examine it too closely.

It was in this same pasture that Peter Wieland had trouble, in 1885, with a large bunch of curious cattle. Peter was driving a one horse wagon with a cow tied behind it. The cattle surrounded him, overturned the wagon, threw down and trampled on the horse and the cow, while Peter himself had to run to escape serious injury.

My troubles in getting on reminded me of the difficulties of some other men on that road a number of years ago, in which animal curiosity cut quite a figure. But thereby hangs a tale. See winter of 1896-7.

On Monday morning, July 27th, I brought out the bike, inflated the wheels, and then finding that the wind was in the north I turned the machine toward Viola township.

My first stop was at the residence of Nathan Shuey who lives on the quarter where John Grant made his homestead entry, May 14th, 1881, the SE of 19, of Wessington Springs township. At the time of making his entry on the SE of 19, Mr. Grant also filed a tree claim entry on the NE quarter of the same section. Here he lived, making the place famous for its orchard of splendid fruit and many improvements, including a good well, fine grove and delightful shade. The farm now includes the M. C. Ayers quarter, which stretches a quarter of a mile in width, along the north line of section 30.

Across the way, east, lies the S. W. of 20. Here John R. Francis filed his soldiers declaratory and made proof for it as his homestead. Prior to making his home on this land he had lived at Sheldon, Iowa. When his six months, allowed by law, for establishing his residence, had

nearly expired he came to the territory again, and for a few days remained at Plankinton, waiting for a chance to ride out with some settler, to his claim. On the day that his six months would expire Ed. Williams, a friend and neighbor, drove to Plankinton and brought Francis home. In some way, before he arrived at his claim, upon which no buildings had yet been erected he learned that some strangers had planned to go to the Mitchell land office the next morning and institute a contest against his entry. As soon as he arrived at his claim he went to John and Newell Grant, who were then living together on Newell's claim the NW of 19, and told them of his danger. It was late at night and the country covered with snow. But the Grants are not men to stop at untried obstacles when a friend needs help. No sooner was the story told than the three men set to work. A small shanty owned by the Grants, was placed on timbers and drawn over the section line and placed, as the required improvement, on Francis' land. A stove and pipe were furnished, fuel provided, and on the next morning when the strangers arose to prepare for their trip, the old soldier had so black a smoke rolling out of the shanty that the whole 13th N. Y. Heavy might have been there, and there could be no doubt about a residence having been established. The claim was saved. A few willows planted by Francis along the highway are now large trees, but their verdure is no greener than his memory among the people with whom he lived for more than a quarter of a century. He later sold his land to John McDonald now of Alpena.

The Francis quarter was purchased in 1898 by Mr. C. P. Christenson, who has built upon it a fine home and has added to it, in one good farm, the SE of 20, held in the early days by J. W. Wright and also purchased by H. Bloodgood. Mr. Christenson has also purchased the NW of 20, once owned by Rev. J. G. Campbell as a timber claim.

John A. McCarter who was here before other people came had a pre-emption and homestead on the west half of 29, while James, one of the boys, had a homestead on the SW of 30. These early settlers went out in the hegira that occurred during the "years of hard times." Their old-time holdings are now the property of others.

Carl Kleppin, Sr., has 800 acres which includes the McCarter SW of 29 and the north half and south east quarter of 31 and SW of 28. Of this land the north half of 32 was once the home of Jas. Houseman now in the Balck Hills country. The SE of 32 was a pre-emption owned by G. A. Groves.

The SW of 32 which is now owned by Paul Kleppin, of near Lane, was in 1883 the homestead of W. W. Goodwin, who was one of those who came to this township first, and stayed. Here was located old Sullivan post office, where Mr. Goodwin was the postmaster. All the Klep-

pin land is now in charge of two of the young men, George and Henry, who are cultivating this year 450 acres.

Across the way to the west lie two quarters upon which are no buildings, the NE of 31, a pre-emption taken by Ed Lowe and the south east quarter of the same section taken as a pre-emption by C. A. Groves. At the NE corner of 6, I crossed the line into Viola township a country fair indeed, and I was literally "among Review readers."

I entered Viola township one mile east of its west line and the same distance from the hill tops over which the town line runs. Because of the roughness of the country, the highway between Viola and Anina is traveled but little, and in some places is practically abandoned. On this slope, lying at the foot of the hills, is some of the richest soil in the state.

On the west side of the road, and including the northeast quarter of 6, and also the east half of the west half of the same section, is the new residence of J. P. Eberhard, a man who started in life as a pioneer. He lived 38 years on his father's homestead, entered in 1868, in Plymouth county, Iowa. Two years ago he left the old home and, with his small family settled here. He has a good new house and other improvements, which, with his 75 acres of excellent crop makes him feel that he made no mistake in coming to the foot of the hills.

Twenty six years ago Miss Emma Cady taught the first school ever taught in this township. It was a subscription school and held in the basement of the dwelling house built by Rev. Wm. Paganheart, a kind hearted German minister, who held as pre-emption and homestead, all of the east half of section 6. The teacher, the minister and the house have all disappeared from Jerauld county. Her brother, Rolla Cady, was also a printer, on the Wessington Springs Herald, in the old days but is now living in Fargo, N. D., a conductor on the Great Northern Railway. But I am letting my pencil wander a long way from Viola township.

On the old Voge farm across the way, the NW of 5, Will Annis lives. He came to the territory in 1884 and settled in Crow Lake township. He lived there eleven years and then moved to the Dr. Nesmith farm, the NE of 7, in this township. Then for a few years he occupied the Kalb farm, among the hills on the west line of 6. By hard work and close economy he was enabled, in 1905, to purchase the farm upon which he now resides.

The next quarter upon this side of the road, the SW of 5, with the quarter opposite, the SE of 6, constitute the farm of E. E. Nesmith and his wife. In 1883 he settled on the SE of 5, taking it as a homestead. He sold that and bought his present location in 1887. Late in the fall of that year he began preparations for building a new house. At odd spells, when the weather would permit, he worked at the building. In the fore-

part of January, 1888, the house was inclosed, except the windows and he began the work of finishing. On the morning of January 12th he got Henry Stephens to assist him in putting on the casings. The weather was mild, with the wind in the southeast. They were making good progress when, suddenly, about ten o'clock, the wind changed to the northwest and the room was instantly filled with snow, fine as flour. A dense fog, struck by a cold wave and frozen in its minutest particles was being driven by a whirling, furious northwest wind. The great blizzard was on. With much difficulty they boarded up the openings and finally shut out the storm. But it was dangerous work, getting fuel from the straw pile a few rods distant. All day the two men listened to the howling of the storm. Sunset came and darkness added to their unpleasant situation. Getting fuel, which had been hazardous in the day-time, was doubly dangerous in the night. About midnight, tiring of the frequent trips, necessary to keep the stove going, Elmer declared his intention of going to the school house, then, as now, located at the southeast corner of the SE of 6, and about 90 rods south of the house they were building. Henry was opposed to the attempt, but Elmer, who had successfully made all the trips to the straw pile, felt confident of being successful in the greater undertaking, and telling his companion to go or stay, as he pleased, set out. Henry followed close at his heels and together they reached the school house in safety. A fire was soon roaring in the coal stove. After getting warm and rested, Elmer determined to try to reach his father's house, 80 rods west of the school house, but Henry refused to venture further and putting more coal in the stove, settled down to wait for daylight. Nesmith, however, buttoned his coat a little tighter, tied up his ears a little closer, and made the dangerous try—how dangerous he did not fully realize until several days later, when the death list came in. He succeeded, but he would not try it now. The grit that enabled him to face the blizzard, brought him, and his no less gritty wife, through the years of hard times and discouragement that followed. Today they have a comfortable home, with a large herd, good crops and many indications of prosperity.

My next stopping place was the farm of S. T. Smith, who has 480 acres of excellent land in section 18. He moved on to this farm in March a year ago, having purchased it of John Grant. On this farm is a fine spring and I think one of the best artesian wells in the state. The water is cold and free from the peculiar taste characteristic of the water in most deep wells. A fifteen acre field of sod corn, planted on the 10th day of June was in tassel at the time of my visit, the 27th day of July. Other crops were doing equally well. Mr. Smith has had varied experience in Dakota. His first venture was in Beadle county where he lost over a

hundred head of cattle in the great blizzard of 1888. He went into the sheep raising business in Anina township in 1897, at one time having over 3000 head. A few years ago he returned to his home in Winnebago county, Ill., but became convinced that the northwest afforded better opportunities for the man with limited means, and came back again and purchased the home where he now lives. Upon this quarter section and on almost the same spot where the buildings now stand, John Phillips, who took it for his homestead, had his house and stable. On the 2nd day of April, 1889, a tornado of fire swept over this tract, destroying every vestige of improvements that Phillips had built.

At the old home of T. K. Ford, I stopped again. This old pioneer residence is rich with interesting memories of the beginning of a county. It was the meeting place for discussion of all matters of local importance. On it the first religious services of the township were held, conducted by Rev. Jordan. Once started the services were continued during the months to come, before the school house, built in 1884, afforded a more commodious place. The early settlers listened here to the earnest teachings of Revs. Vessey, Daniels, Paganhart, Jordan and Smith. Here the first Sunday school was organized. The hardy old pioneer has done his work and is gone. The world is surely better for his having lived in it. But two of his children are now residing in this county, a daughter Mrs. E. E. Nesmith and a son, Mr. J. A. Ford. The latter is living in the historic house, while waiting for the completion of his new house, on the NE of 18, at one time held as a tree claim by a lady named Prior. Mr. Ford is clerk of the civil township, and he and his wife being both among the earliest of the early settlers, I was enabled to get from them a fund of information concerning the early times in that part of the county.

At the NE corner of 19 stands the Ford school house. It was properly named, though it had no formal christening. The SE of 18 was owned by T. K. Ford, the SW of 17 by J. A. Ford; the NW of 20 by T. K. Ford; the SW of 20 by Mary Ford and the NE of 19 is now the property of J. A. Ford.

Twenty-five years ago J. M. Simpson had a homestead entry on the NW of 19. This quarter is now owned by Edward Curl, who came here from Manilla, Iowa, three years ago and set to work to open up a new farm, for Simpson had done but little in the matter of making improvements. Mr. Curl has broken up and put to crop about 60 acres on his own farm and also put out 100 acres on rented land. His crops are good and his prospects encouraging. On the quarter north, the SW 18, at the southwest corner is located Union cemetery, owned by people of Viola and Anina townships. In the beginning 12 lots were set apart as

a potter's field. They are all vacant yet. The plan of this cemetery was drawn by J. A. Tyner. The surveying was done by T. L. Blank.

J. A. Tyner was one of the early settlers in the west part of Viola township. He was prominent in all affairs of the township and was at one time a candidate on the republican ticket for the position of sheriff. Like all candidates on the G. O. P. ticket for that office in this county, in the past, he didn't "get there." His farm was the one upon which Albert Ankrum has been living during the last five years, the NE of 30. Mr. Ankrum came from Woodbury county, Iowa, and is well pleased with his investment. He has been paying considerable attention to Duroc Jerseys with very satisfactory results. In 1889 this farm was occupied by S. T. Smith. On the 2nd of April, of that year, it, like all others in that vicinity, was swept by the fire that made that day one to be remembered. Smith saved his buildings and the most of his animals. One cow, with a small calf, was out on the prairie, and was supposed to be lost. On the morning of the 3rd of April Mr. Smith was looking about the farm when he saw the cow coming towards the buildings. All her hair was singed off and she was badly burned. At a distance he saw the calf. It was well and sound as any calf, and had not been scorched in the least. It was one of the things unaccountable that happen in all great catastrophies. It was interesting only from its strangeness.

On what was known in the early days as the Will Dixon farm, the NW of 30, Mr. S. H. LeValley, Jr., has as fine a crop prospect as will often be found. He came here with his father, S. H. LeValley, Sr., who lives across the way, on the old Christ. Johnson place, the SW of 19, in the fall of 1906. At the time of my call at the residence of Mr. LeValley, Sr., the household was busy preparing for the wedding reception to be given that evening to their son and his bride, in honor of their marriage, an account of which appeared in the columns of "The Review" at the time of the occurrence. Friends were to be there from Viola and Anina townships, as well as from a distance, for the young man had brought home one of the most popular girls in Hawkeye Valley. I made my visit short as possible—only long enough, in fact, to ask a few questions, from which I learned, among other things, that this family came from Walforth county, Wis., and are pleased beyond their expectations with their South Dakota home.

On the SE of 32 I found J. M. Dougan "keeping bach in a splendid 'hall'" on a fine farm of 960 acres. It includes the NE of 33, once owned by Eliza Ellison, the C. E. Walker farm, the SW of 33, and the NW of the same section, formerly, for a short time, the home of Louis Desteiger, and a half section in the county across the line. Mr. Dougan was born in Mason City, Iowa, and never spent a day on a farm until he came here

eight years ago and purchased this tract. He has stayed right on this farm ever since. In that time his riches have increased rapidly. Last winter he kept, without any losses, 400 cattle and 100 horses. The cattle will all be "feeders" this season and he has 80 of the horses left, having sold twenty of them this spring. The horses are of the Percheron breed and all young animals. The cattle are all steers except thirty cows and heifers. Last year he sold \$2,000 worth of hogs and has 120 head on the farm now. They are all Poland Chinas.

After a good dinner with bachelor Dougan I rode and walked east, for the way was not good for wheeling, until I reached the quarter section, the SE of 33, where 26 years ago H. H. Kieser settled as one of the first settlers in this part of Jerauld county. In the fall of the year before, 1881, he and his brother John had visited this region, then a part of Aurora county, and made timber culture entries—H. H. Kieser taking the SE of 33 and John taking the SW of 34. Through good times and hard times, wet times and dry times, Mr. Kieser has stuck to his land; he stayed with it when it was worth but \$5 per acre and de still keeps it when he could easily get \$45. He now has the south half of 34 and the SE of 33. He came to Viola township, when it was only known as "106—64," from Kansas. In 1903 he put down an artesian well, and last year built a new house that is a credit to the township. He is rich in this world's goods, having on this splendid farm 90 acres of corn, 105 acres of wheat, 13 acres of oats, 65 head of cattle, 20 horses and 70 hogs. Mr. Kieser's brothers also have good farms in this vicinity which I will mention hereafter.

At the NE of 27 I met Mr. August Schuttpelz, who, in company with Mr. Wm. Wetzel came here in 1883, and filed on this quarter for a homestead. Mr. Wetzel took the quarter across the road east. After living on this land until he made proof Mr. Schuttpelz sold his land to Herman Heinz and went back to Hancock county, Iowa. Twelve years he remained there and then once more came to Dakota, to repurchase his old residence. He has developed and improved his farm until now he is the happy owner of a home that ought to content any one.

Mr. Wetsel, who came with Mr. Schuttpelz in 1883, has lived one-score-and-five years on the homestead the government gave him at that time. The farm now includes the whole west half of section 26 and he and his sons are prospering to their hearts' content. The buildings are good, the soil is of the best and the crops can not be beaten in any state. An artesian well supplies abundance of water for all purposes, and with rural telephone and mail delivery, what more can any one want. The old home quarter is now owned by one of the boys. Max Wetzel, who married Bertha Klink last March.

Max Wetzel I found harvesting a fine crop of grain on the west half of 23. Peter Klink, who lived on this half-section, was well known to all the early settlers and was interested in the organization of the township. He died ten years ago. Mrs. Klink continued to live on the farm until two years ago, when she moved into Lane, where she still resides.

Lest some of the "Review" readers who live out of the county, or out of the state, and have not seen the prosperity that has come upon the people among whom I have been "a wheeling," should think that I am out on a bouquet-throwing expedition, I want to say, before writing more of my trips about the county, that I have during the past three years, been over a large portion of Iowa and Illinois, two as good states as there are in the Union, and I have no where seen farmers any more prosperous than they are in Jerauld county. Land that in the older states is selling at from \$100 to \$150 per acre gives no better returns than the farmers here get on land that is selling at \$35 to \$50. To those of the readers who have never been here I say, come and see; to thos who came early and left in "the hard times" I say, come again for the sake of "auld lang syne" and see what has come to those who couldn't go when you did. These articles are not "knockers," neither are they "boosters," but they are intended to be truthfully descriptive of the country and the people, as I have known them in the past twenty-five years. So far I have said nothing of the "hot winds" that devastated this country as the grasshoppers did Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Minnesota, or as the chintz bug, weewil and cutworms did the states of Illinois, Michigan and Indiana; but before I am done I shall tell it all in the history of the "hard times in Dakota," about which so much has been said.

Chas. Walters has a good farmstead on the NE 40 of the NW of 22. A house that would be a credit to any farm in the older states, a large and commodious barn, with convenient outbuildings, cattle and hogs, whose numbers he doesn't know. Charlie, as he is familiarly known, is happy in the enjoyment of the fruits of his years of pioneering. About his buildings is a fine grove, planted years ago when he first settled on this land, for this was Mr. Walter's homestead. A shallow well that furnishes the best of cold water, has been known to the people for miles around during all the years that he has lived here. For several years it afforded drinking water for all the settlers in the central part of the township. People would drive past other wells for miles around to slake their thirst at this famous well. It still furnishes abundance of water, but people have become accustomed to the taste of the water from artesian wells, of which there are twenty-one in the township and so do not take the trouble to go so far to get the better water at Charlie's place. The years have prospered well with Mr. Walters. He now has just one thousand acres



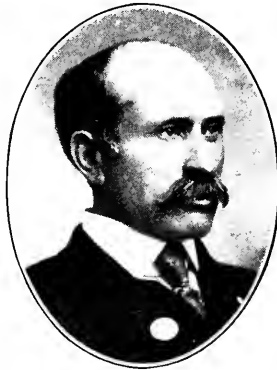
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hanebuth.



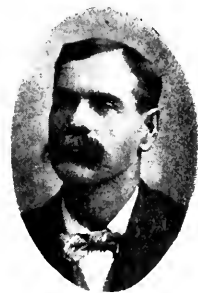
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Vessey.



E. E. Nesmith.



W. H. McMillan.



John Conley.



Sylvester T. Smith



Mr. and Mrs. Geo. King.



Charles Walters.

in his splendid farm. He made his homestead entry on three forties in section 15 and this one forty in 22. His pre-emption right he filed on the SE of 15 and afterward purchased the NW of 15, the Mike Houk homestead, where Chas. Walters, Jr., now resides. He also owns the SW of 28, the old Primmer homestead and the SW of 32. The NW of 14, where Mr. Moss had his homestead claim, has also been added to Mr. Walter's farm. Mr. W. came here in 1881. His artesian well was the second one to be put down in Viola township.

In 1884 the Villbrandt family came to Viola township direct from the fatherland. They rented the NE 2 and afterward bought it for four hundred dollars, paying one hundred down, and then all went to work to clear off the three hundred dollar mortgage. Almost incessantly the whole family worked. Fate was against them. Their experience was the same as hundreds of others who were here in the "hard times"—they couldn't pay the interest and taxes. The mortgage worked more effectually than they could and it took the farm. William afterwards bought the farm back for \$800 and paid for it, while Frank Villbrandt purchased the old Nate Rhodes farm the NE of 20. It hardly seems credible that he should have had the courage to make another effort in the immediate vicinity of the land upon which he and his brothers had so signally failed. But he did, and I found him looking at the carpenters who were rapidly bringing to completion another of those elegant houses of which so many are to be found in Jerauld county. He was badly crippled with a sudden attack of sciatica, but there was a look of satisfaction on his face as he told me of his hardships and trials and his ultimate success. He has a good barn (anyone acquainted with German families knows what that means) a strong artesian well, 120 acres in cultivation, farm well fenced and to this he has added another 160 acres, the NW of 28, a quarter section once held as a homestead by Chas. Towner.

George Clodt has the south half and the northwest quarter of section 17. He was but 15 years of age when he came to Dakota Territory, and when he became of age he purchased relinquishments and placed his homestead, pre-emption and tree claim rights on the SE of 17, which carried him through the hard times without a heavy incumbrance on the land. He then bought the other two quarters the John M. Primmer pre-emption and the J. A. Ford homestead. The three quarters make one of the best farms of the county. A large white farm house, a large red barn and other improvements necessary to the convenience of a farm. He has had poor luck with his artesian wells. He has put down two, but both have gone dry. With true Dakota pluck, however, he will try again.

One special feature of his farm of which he is justly proud, is a fine young orchard.

At the Kleppin mail box I met A. V. Hall, also on a wheel, carrying the mail, which was light that morning, down into the country where I had been since Monday morning. He delivers every day at seventy-four boxes, the letters and papers addressed to ninety-seven persons. The wheel was heavily loaded, but he was making good time.

On the 31st day of July the wind being in the SW, I decided to take a run through Dale township and as I thought of the deep pools of Sand Creek, lying along the east side of that township, I tied my fish pole on the "bike" and headed in that direction. Harvesting was everywhere in full swing, and in some places the thresher had commenced his work. I did not stop until I reached a knoll near the north line of Wessington Springs township. It was covered with a thick growth of ash trees planted long ago by F. T. Tofflemier, and known as "Ash Knoll."

Probably no man in Jerauld county was better or more favorably known than he. In November, 1881, he came to the Territory of Dakota and filed his homestead on the NW of 5 in Wessington Springs township and made a timber culture entry on the SW of 33 in Dale. In March the next year he brought his family and began a residence on the land selected for his home, which continued until the time of his death, October 22, 1905. He and his good wife lived long enough to know that their life work had been a success. A large family of splendid boys and girls grew up around them. Today those children are scattered far and wide, but wherever they are each one in his or her place is a credit to the name of Tofflemier. The mother survived the father but a few days. Of the children, Tell and Ross are in Lyman county, this state, although 50 miles apart. Mand is in Michigan, Floyd is in Red Lands, California, Ruth is in Winona, Minn., Ollie has a good home in Missouri, Lou lives at Custer, S. D., while Fanny, Louis and Kate still have their postoffice at Wessington Springs. Louis lives on the old farm. Suffering from an operation for appendicitis, Louis has been compelled to hire most of his farm work done, but has managed so well that the year has been to him a very profitable one.

At no place in my travels awheel have I met more gratifying evidence of what energy and perseverance can accomplish, even in the face of manifold discouragements, than on the NE of 32, the C. D. Brown claim of twenty-five years ago. E. W. Simmons, and his determined wife, after long years of hard work and adversity, in which they had tried claim-holding, farming, renting and "working out" three years ago found themselves in position to buy this quarter and again start farming "on their own hook." They won, with the help of the boys, and last spring added to the

farm the E half of the SE of 30. They rented other land and have 450 acres of crop that will place them among the people on "Easy Street." At last they have a home of their own. It's a "dandy," and not for sale.

A few rods further north and on the opposite side of the road, in a fine grove of trees, stands the dwelling of Mr. Christiansen, the school clerk of Dale township. He came from Minnesota in 1904 and purchased the south half of 29 and the old Elmer Taylor 80 in the SE of 30. The latter tract he sold to Mr. Simmons last spring. He has 120 acres to crop on the S half of 29. It is fine grain and he is content. The early map of the county says but little of this half section. On the SW quarter appears the name Beal and on the SE is the name Miller, and on each is the letter "D," indicating that at the time the map was made both quarters were deeded land.

I went on north past the Chas. Smith homestead, the NW of 29, past the Sarah Brown tree claim, the SW of 20, and turned the corner at the north side of that section, where Lawrence Russell had a homestead when wild antelope looked from the top of the Wessington Hills at the canvas tops of the settlers' wagons that dotted the Jim river valley. In the road near the corner on the west side of the section stood Jim La Bau's engine and separator. That night some one set fire to the separator and it was utterly destroyed. Who did it is one of the mysteries that will probably never be solved.

John Doctor lives with his mother on the Lawrence Russell quarter and though a bachelor, seems as happy and contented as any benedict in the land. His crops are good and the acreage large enough to keep him busy.

I went east past Frank Eagle's place and turned north along the west line of the school section, but crossed the NW quarter to where R. J. Tracy, ex-county commissioner—"ex" simply because he is a democrat and the republicans had the most votes—was making extensive improvements to his already commodious house. He has 960 acres in his farm, which includes the SE of 9, where John Dynes had his homestead; the SW of 9, where Adam Graham had a tree claim entry; James Eastman's old pre-emption, the NE of 9; Wm. Burn's pre-emption and the John Maxon tree claim, these two quarters giving him the west half of ten, and his own homestead, the NW of 15, entered at the Mitchell land office in May, 1883. A large herd of fine cattle and 300 acres of good crops with old corn in the crib, "Rob" is "fixed" well enough. He went through the hard times and stayed, while those who took the land from the government left and endured the hard times somewhere else. With some of them the complaint became chronic and they will have "hard times" as

long as they stay in this world and nothing but universalism can help them in the next.

After leaving Tracy's land I turned northeast across the quarter at one time held by Solon Palmer, as a homestead; to the northwest corner of Lewis Fenstimaker's homestead; then north between Wm. J. Reese's pre-emption and Ed Palmer's homestead, until I reached the SE corner of the claim held by Henrietta M. Arne as a tree claim, the SE of 3. Wm. J. Reese had another claim, the SW of 2, and after rolling along past that I came to John Teasdale's milelong homestead. It took in the south half of the SE of 2 and the south half of the SW of 1. Mrs. Teasdale's father, Chas. Dawson, had a claim on the north 80 of the SE of 2.

At the southeast corner of the Teasdale land stands the school house that bears his name. This building is unlocked and destitute of furniture, but is to be fitted up for school again this year.

The Teasdale land is now owned and occupied by Michael Wahl, a Russian gentleman, who has added greatly to the improvements and extended the limits of the farm, which now includes the Teasdale homestead the SE of 1; the S half of NE of 1; the S half of 2, and a quarter section in Beadle county. An artesian well affords abundance of water for his 125 head of cattle, while 400 acres of good crops insure ample forage and grain for the coming winter.

Harry Sheffield owns 240 acres in the north half of section one in Dale township. A part of this farm was once owned by B. B. Beadel and part by Anthony C. Bixler. Both of them left the state about the time it was admitted to the Union and their land was used by different persons for various purposes untill 1901 when Mr. Sheffield bought it. Since then the Anglo-Saxon grit and untiring energy of this English lad has made it bring forth the crops that have made him prosperous and independent. He has been for several years the clerk of the civil township of Dale. Several weeks ago, when writing of a trip through Alpena township I mentioned the trip made by Mrs. Sheffield from England with her boys to join her husband who had come on some months before. Harry was one of the boys. His farm is a good one and at the time of my visit he was softly and carefully uttering ejaculations at the perversity of a twine binder that seemed to object to doing just one more harvest before going to that rest accorded to all good binders when their days of work are done.

The sun was just sinking behind the hills as I left Mr. Sheffield's place to retrace my way to the banks of Sand Creek to angle with hook and fly for the speckled trout, that I knew was not there. A few chubs, shiners, crawfish and bullheads were landed and then, after eating a lunch

to dispel a part of my "fisherman's luck," I climbed to the top of a hay stack and slept soundly until morning.

Across the road, south, is the quarter section where Wood Richardson had his soldier's homestead. He was a good fellow, but like many another good fellow he got disgusted with the "hard times" and went away practically abandoning land that today is worth half a hundred dollars per acre. This land is the NE of 24.

The NW of 24 was a tree claim, held by A. Huxtable, who never did anything with it. It is now one of the many valuable quarters in the township.

Without stopping again I went on past the SE of 14 where S. E. Mann had a timber culture entry in the early days; past the NE of 26, once owned by Mike Lynch; along the south line of the land held when the country was new by Ed Crawford, and where the first school in the township was taught, until I reached the corners at the Dale Center school house. These corners are interesting. The NW of 23 is owned and occupied by Geo. H. Young, one of the few men in the county who are still living on the land they got from Uncle Sam 26 years ago. He owns a half section, having purchased the NW of 14 in 1895, upon which proof was made by Mrs. Ed Eddy of Chery township. Mr. Young has good soil on his farm and knows how to make the best of it. He cultivates 160 acres of his land, using the balance for meadows and pasture.

NE of 22 was obtained from the government by Andrew Mercer, for four years sheriff of the county and the man who proposed the name adopted for this township.

The SE of 15 was where Ely W. Chapman made his homestead entry in 1882. He held on as long as he could and then quit. He had the distinction of being the only man to be convicted of a crime in Jerauld county on a plea of "not guilty." It was one of those court mistakes that do sometimes occur. There is no question now but that E. W. Chapman was not guilty of the crime with which he was charged. In 1894 this farm was purchased by J. H. Young, a son of Geo. H. Young. He is a good deal of a horticulturist and besides other fruits has an acre of grape vines growing in good condition. I stayed with George Young over night and the next morning started back east to take a look at some farms of especial interest, one of which I had passed the previous evening.

A mile east of the Dale Center school house is a beautiful pond, comparatively deep, with high banks. It stretches across the section line and so the road curves to the south onto the NE of 23. This pond, or lake, furnishes the best of fish, bull-heads, for many families in the neighborhood. Although it is but two miles from Sand Creek its fish are so much better in firmness and taste that they are sought in preference to those in

the stream. The lake covers about eight or ten acres and lies mostly on the farm of Wm. Daleske, who settled on the SE of 14 in 1893 and put down an artesian well. The well supplies the water for the lake. The fish were put in the pond as soon as it was filled with water and now the supply of them is abundant. All the improvements on this farm are good. This thrifty farmer owns the SW of 14, the SW of 13, and the NE of 23, in addition to the quarter upon which his buildings are located, making a full section in all.

Nearly a mile north of the residence of Mr. Daleske, but on the NE of the same section is the dwelling of Ernest Schmidt. He has three quarters but the land is not all together. In addition to the NE of 14 he owns the NE of 15 and the NW of 24. Of this land 160 acres are in crop this year. He also has a good artesian well which affords abundance of water for all purposes on the farm, and fills a deep valley in which large numbers of fish can be taken at any time. This well was drilled in 1898. Mr. Schmidt took the NE of 14 in 1883, as a homestead, and has resided there ever since.

Across the road north from Ernest Schmidt is the homestead of his brother, Dan Schmidt. The two brothers came to the Territory of Dakota at nearly the same time and took as homesteads, quarters lying side by side. Dan also took the SW of 12, putting upon it his tree claim right. At that time Dr. Wheelan had a filing on the NW of 13, and Mr. Fenstermaker on the SW of 11. These two tracts Dan Schmidt has added to his farm and also the NW of 11, and the NE of 24. A detached quarter, the SW of 24, is also owned by Mr. Schmidt, but is occupied by his son-in-law, Frank Detleff. Dan Schmidt has the honor of being the first to put down an artesian well in Jerauld county. It was an expensive venture in those days, but he was full of the confidence that he still has in South Dakota. He made the try and won. Since then hundreds of wells have been dug in the adjacent country. Dan Schmidt's success in getting a deep well gave renewed hope to his neighbors and revived their confidence in the wealth hidden in the earth if they would but go after it. The creameries, stock-raising, sheep raising and the ultimate success in all lines of agriculture, that has prevailed in this and adjoining counties are in a great measure due to the success of this German farmer in his efforts to get a supply of water from the deep-hidden streams of the earth. I drank from the well. The water is cool and refreshing, and the supply as abundant as when the drill point first tapped the fountain in 1886. This is a German home, retaining many of the customs of the fatherland. It was about ten o'clock in the forenoon when I arrived on my wheel at the farm. I met a sweet-faced German lassie taking a generous mid-forenoon lunch to the men in the harvest field. With his fertile fields, his large

herds, his private fishing pond and his beautiful home Dan Schmidt is enjoying a quiet prosperity that any one might envy.

From here I wheeled north on a fairly good road to Wahls farm and then took the hill road west. On one of the highest points I stopped a few moments and looked over the ground where Jack Crawford, now of Watertown, had his residence and blacksmith shop at the time he was "holding down" the SE of 3. The shop was near the highway and passing teamsters could, early and late, hear the clang of hammer and anvil long before they reached the shop. The light of his forge could be seen by the settlers miles around long after the shades of night had settled over the lonely hill tops. Jack was a busy workman and hundreds of acres of prairie sod where broken up with the lays he sharpened.

A mile and a half further west and I stopped to have a look at a new home located on the SW of 4, where four years ago was nothing but raw prairie. Tom Yegge, a son of C. M. Cegge, whose farm near Alpena I had visited a few weeks before, came on to this quarter in 1905, now has a good start made toward making a fine place. Tom is a "chip off the old block." His beginning with fruit is great. The late frost last spring destroyed the fruit crop for this year, but that occurs so seldom that he is not in the least discouraged. If I am not mistaken, Tom Yegge and John Young will show to the rising generation as fine grapes, pears and apples as can be grown in any of the northern states. But Tom has not devoted all his time to horticulture. A small, but comfortable house, good stables and 65 acres of good crops are other results of his three years work on this quarter section.

I then turned south on the road between sections 8 and 9, toward Wessington Springs. Years ago Frank Eastman had a pre-emption, filing on the NW of 9, and as such proved up on it and got a patent signed by Grover Cleveland. That was all that Frank did with it except to add a mortgage. In 1902 Ernest Scott came to South Dakota with his father, John Scott, and settled on this quarter. Now a neat new house, comfortable outbuildings and 80 acres of cultivation are indications of the prosperity that has attended the young farmer's efforts.

Again I passed along the west side of the school section and saw the same little pile of lumber lying just as it did when I came this way in May. But there is no water in the creek, now, (that's an Irish bull) and so the crossing is good enough. It reminded me of the Arkansas Traveler.

On section 21 are two good new houses. B. F. Gebhart is on the NW quarter and his father-in-law, W. R. Winter, has the south half. They came on here last year from Buffalo county and began to develop the farms. No one in the county has done better than they. The substantial buildings and other improvements show that they have been busy.

Away back in the '80s and '90s Joe Scott tried hard on the NE of 29 to battle against adversity in the form of poor crops and low prices. After a long struggle in which he won the respect of all his neighbors and acquaintances, he gave it up and moved away. In the spring of 1907 a gentleman named J. H. McVey, came here from Montezuma, Iowa, in search of a new home. He saw this tract and determined to make his try on it. When I called there I found him on a binder harvesting a splendid crop and ready to compare his farm as to intrinsic value, with anything anywhere. He has added to the Scott farm the E half of the NW of the same section and he certainly has a farm hard to beat.

At supper time I again rolled into Wessington Springs.

One morning in September I mounted the bike and started out to follow the wind in a run up through Chery township to spend a day about the lakes in the north part of Harmony, said to be "alive with ducks." As much as possible, I followed the old road along the foot of the hills. I "hit" it occasionally until I reached the first site of the old Elmer post-office. Here I received the first letters addressed to me in Dakota Territory, in November, 1883. It was the P. O. for the village of Wessington Springs and vicinity for several months. An assistant post master general under Arthur wanted the office to bear his name, and so designated it, giving the name of Wessington to a new office on the C. & N. W. Ry. in Beadie county, at the north end of the range of hills. The name of Elmer was finally dropped, at the earnest request of the office patrons and it has ever since been Wessington Springs. The two names, Wessington and Wessington Springs, cause no end of trouble to mail agents and postmasters, for people will not remember that one place is not the other.

When I arrived at the place where Uncle Peter and Aunt Sarah dwelt, long before the town, now with its thousand inhabitants, was thought of. I had to open a gate, cross the gulch and take to the hills. That was the last of the old road. Thereafter I had to lead the wheel in cattle and sheep pastures and lift it over fences, for a bicycle is not of much account in a hurdle race.

At the Wallace ranch I crossed the "draw" by the side of the old bridge built by the county twenty-two years ago. There was no water near it, so the crossing was easy. I leaned the wheel against the wire fence and went to the well for a drink. I am not disposed to praise that well very much, but the water was wet. The ranch is one of the best in the county, affording abundance of grass in the summer and natural protection from all storms in the winter, while the bubbling springs furnish plenty of water for stock. This place is historic in many respects. Two townships were named here. The returns of the election in 1883, separating Jerauld county from Aurora, were brought to this place by mes-

sengers from all parts of the county. H. J. Wallace, who owned the ranch for many years, was probably the most popular man the county ever had. At his first election as county treasurer he received more votes than any other candidate ever voted for in the county—only two votes being cast against him. He served three terms as county treasurer, two terms as county surveyor and when the office of state surveyor was created in 1893 he was appointed by Gov. Sheldon to fill the position.

The next stop was at W. F. Yegge's, who is clerk of the civil township of Chery. He owns the N half of 21. The NE quarter which Frank Simons abandoned, after seven years residence, Mr. Yegge took as a homestead in 1896. He afterwards purchased the NW quarter which was homesteaded by Joe Geopfert in 1883. A small stock of well selected groceries is kept by Mr. Yegge, who for several years was the master of Stock postoffice. I worked at the civil township records until near sun down and then leaving the job unfinished, I started on. I followed the section line until I got lost and confused among the hills and gulches and after much leading and pushing, but no riding, arrived with the wheel at the McCloud farm on section 18.

No one ever knew the hospitality of Aaron McCloud to fail. A hearty welcome, a good supper, and a splendid night's rest banished all remembrance of the evening's experience in taking the bike through the deep ravines and monstrosly heavy grass of that hilly region. Nine years before I had visited this place in company with J. R. Eddy. Then nothing but blackened ruins marked the places where his buildings had stood. A prairie fire, driven by a furious wind, had devastated his farm and left him houseless and destitute so far as personal property is concerned. No one is destitute in the worst sense of the word, who has the pluck shown by this old settler and his wife. The old man's story surely had in it much of the pathetic. He and his wife had together climbed the hill of life, toiling, struggling, always ready to extend a hand of willing helpfulness to another, and just as they could see an easy road before them, they had to stand helpless while the earnings of a life time went up in smoke. Then came the wonder part of it. For a moment only they seemed dazed with their loss. Then realizing that once more they were at the foot of the hill, they touched shoulders and began to climb. Today the old hero and his hero wife, have a house of which they are, and the county may well be, proud. I picked grapes from his vineyard, saw him gather as fine vegetables as can be found in the county, went through his comfortable house and barn, and looked over his 480 acres and was astonished to find that in nine years they had done what many have taken a life time to do, and all that after passing

the age of 60 years. Possibly they could not have done it in any other country.

Bidding the McClouds good morning I peddled north until I had passed the homesteads of Gene Lewis, Dave Lewis and Silas Kinney, and then turned west, passing the claims of Benjamin Drake, Hiram Crosby and D. V. K. Funk, the latter having married the widow Berger, whose husband was killed by lightning on this claim the SW of 1, in the summer of 1883. I did not stop again until I had reached the lakes of northern Harmony. Ever since the first settlement of the county these lakes have been the resort of sportsmen in the duck shooting season. In the early days a number of expert marksmen lived in this vicinity, who spent many pleasant hours on the banks of these ponds. Among them were Jeff Sickler, now in California, Will Miller, whose present address I do not know, Wm. Titus, now of Wessington Springs and Joe Collier, now a resident of Alpena. Among the many others who enjoyed the sport was one who was known and loved by all who lived on the west side of the county. A. N. Alward was a true gentleman and a true sportsman. He was with me at the time he lost his famous hunting dog, "Sport." For 16 years the dog had been his constant attendant, but on that occasion was too infirm to make the trip. We spent the day on the banks of Ponton's lake. The old man was constantly talking of the fine qualities of his dog and finally quoted all of Eliza Cook's splendid poem about the Indian king and his dog. He said he had not thought of it before for thirty years, yet so good was his memory that he repeated it all without missing a line. Ducks were thick that day, but neither of us got a bird, although each of us shot away two boxes of shells. Want of skill could account for this lack of success on my part, but some other reason must account for Alward's failure. When he returned to Templeton, where he was then living, the old dog was dead. It was the last dog he ever owned, and during the balance of his life he hunted but little.

The lake by which we spent that day is on the south half of SW of 3. That 80-acre tract was taken as a pre-emption by August Ponto in the spring of 1884. He lived there working hard and "keeping back," until the \$100 mortgage he gave when he made proof took it and he moved from it, putting a homestead filing on the NE of 2, where he died a few years later.

Section 22 of Harmony township has had considerable to do with its history. The first religious services were held in Peter Welfing's sod shanty on the northwest quarter. The preaching was by Wm. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Huntley and others, as occasion offered.

Close to the southwest corner stake of this section a meeting was held in April, 1884, to determine the course to be pursued in regard to the

public schools of the township. It was held in the open air. I do not remember all who were present, but among them were O. O. and C. W. England, I. N. Rich, C. W. and C. Mills, O. J. Marshall, Daniel Mitchell, Louis Nordyke, James Grieve, Clayton Brown, and his son, William, H. A. Peirce, J. R. and Siegel Eddy, George Brady, W. T. Hammack, John Murphy, C. G. Smith, Peter Welfing and myself. As a result of this meeting one of the school houses was located at the northwest corner of the SW of 26, James Grieve, who owned that quarter, donating the use of the ground needed for that purpose. The land upon which this important meeting was held was then a tree claim owned by Col. Geddes of Huron. He tried several times to get the required number of trees started but failed utterly. This quarter with the Welfing claim north of it afterward became the home of H. T. Gilbert, who married Marion Grieve and together they made of it one of the best paying farms of the township. The northeast quarter of this section was in later years the scene of a terrible tragedy. Alba Eddy who had been one of the school boys of the township, had when he became of age obtained this quarter section as a homestead. He married Francis Andrews and here they lived, prospering more than any other young settlers of the township. He became the owner of all the east half of the section and also of the SE of 21. One morning he went out to shoot a dog that had become a nuisance about the place. The report of the gun was heard by Mrs. Eddy and the children who were in the house. A few moments later his lifeless form was found with his head terribly mangled. The charge had entered the back part of the brain and death was instantaneous. How it happened will never be known.

The meeting above mentioned was held in the open near where the section lines cross. A few feet to the west, on section 21, was G. W. Titus' sod shanty. To the south of that was the residence of Wm. Titus, while a few rods east, on the NW of 27 was the sod house of James Grieve in which he lived while holding his pre-emption. He afterward moved onto the SW of 26 where he had placed his homestead filing. Upon that he built a more comfortable home, and there lived until his death a few years later. His son, Walter, still occupies the old homestead and this year has built a splendid 8-room house that excels any other farm home in that part of the county. At the time of my visit he was the township clerk and from his books I obtained the story of the organization of Harmony township.

From Mrs. Fee, school clerk, I obtained the school records of Harmony township, and taking them to the Templeton school house I spent a half day in making extracts from the entries made by the clerks during the last 24 years. School houses in Jerauld county, like its post offices

and postmasters have been subject to removals, and the Grieve school house was no exception. In the early '90s it was moved from its original site to the southeast corner of the SE of 26, where it has remained to the present time. It is kept locked and is one of the few school houses in the county that are well protected from prairie fires.

Over in Marlar township I found George Scofield on section 25. A part of this farm was once owned by Mr. De Lap, who now lives out in Oregon, and part by Mr. Lamb, who has a railroad contract out west somewhere. When the first school census was taken in 1884, the name of George Scofield appeared among the children of school age. He is now clerk of the school township of which he was then a pupil. George has seen the ups and downs of frontier life since his boyhood days, but has stuck by Marlar township in which he has prospered.

My next objective point was the home of W. W. Yates on the S half of 31. Before reaching there, however, I stopped for dinner with J. J. Groub on the SW of 33. When the railroad follows the telephone into this region this farm will be as desirable as any in the county. Without being rough it has an elevation that enables its occupants to see all over Gann Valley and the country away off toward Kimball and Chamberlain; the location of the old town of Waterbury, once a thriving prairie village, but now reduced to one lone residence and that occupied by a bachelor, and then across Crow Creek into Logan township and beyond that across Smith Creek toward White Lake in Aurora county. I was as well pleased with the beautiful view from the farm of John Groub as any I have seen in the county. But the view is not all. One branch of Crow Creek heads at a big spring on one part of this farm that affords abundance of water for any number of animals. It is one of the comparatively few really big springs of the county. The land has a gradual slope to the south and is of good soil and nearly all tillable, but John and "Trix" are devoting their attention mainly to cattle and horses, of which they have some splendid specimens. The residence of the Groub family on the SW of 33 dates back only to 1900. Prior to that on the 6th day of May, 1883, they settled on sections 19 and 20 of this township. The family had come from Harrison county, Missouri, and while driving about over the section upon which they made their home, they met another man who was also looking for land. A greeting and a few moments talk revealed the fact that the stranger was also from Harrison county, Missouri. Their first meeting was on section 19 in the township that was afterward to bear the stranger's name; he was Mr. B. F. Marlaur. The first settlers in range 67, which in Jerauld county includes Marlar, Crow and Logan townships, supposed they were taking homes in Buffalo county. This erroneous idea continued until after the election of

delegates to the constitutional convention that met that summer in Sioux Falls. The township in which the Groubs took their claims was then unsurveyed and the settlers could only guess at the lay of it, or hire a surveyor to run the lines for them. From the lines in the township south that had been surveyed, they were enabled, generally, to locate their claims so as to avoid trouble when the plats were finally published. The same condition prevailed in most of the western townships of the county. John Groub placed his filing on the SE of 19. Geo. Groub took the S half of the SW of 20 and the N half of the NW of 29 and their father secured a homestead right on the NE of 30. The John Groub house still stands on the SE of 20. The father, Z. Groub, was for several years one of the magistrates of the county. When the family decided to do stock raising instead of farming they removed to their present location on section 33. Among the amusing things connected with their first few weeks' experience in their Dokato home was that of John in trying to send a letter to friends back in Missouri. He wrote the letter and went to the town of Waterbury, about six miles away to get an envelope and stamp. When he arrived at the village he was directed to the postoffice. He found Miss Francis Waterbury, now Mrs. Mount of Wausa, Neb., in charge. He asked for a stamp and envelope but was informed that she had none and that she did not know where he could get them unless it was at the blacksmith shop kept by Mr. Dement. Wondering at the "slackness of Uncle Sam" in not keeping his postoffice supplied with stamps he went to the place indicated and found that the blacksmith had a bunch of envelopes and 50 cents in postage stamps, all there was in town. He obtained what he wanted and then learned that there was no postoffice in the town. Twice a week E. S. Waterbury, who founded the village, went to Kimball, twenty-four miles away and brought up the mail for the people, who had settled in this locality. This service was rendered free of charge. People got their mail at his residence, hence it was called the postoffice.

Another experience in which John Groub and his neighbors of that day took an active part, serious and earnest enough at the time, but afterward the subject of many a jest, was digging for coal on the Morris Curtis homestead in section 4 of Crow township. For some reason Mr. Curtis became convinced that a stratum of coal could be found at a reasonable depth below the surface of his claim. He succeeded in getting his neighbors and some of the business men in the village of Waterbury, interested in the matter and they began drilling for coal. A small derrick was built and to it was attached what they termed a "jerk-pole" drill. Nearly all the neighbors contributed a day or two at "jerking" the pole. For rods, John Snart, one of the Waterbury merchants, furnished several hundred pounds of iron, which S. T. Leeds joined together in his black-



Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Fordham.



John McDonald.



Mr. and Mrs. Duane Voorhees.



Geo. W. Burger.



Mr. and Mrs. Deindorfer.

smith shop. The steel point had been driven into the ground nearly three hundred feet when one evening Leeds, Dr. Miller, Joe Herring and George Light grew tired of the effort and between them concluded it would be just as well to "strike oil" as to strike coal. The next morning when work at the drill was resumed the smell of kerosene was strong. The dirt and water brought up by the drill was so strongly impregnated with the oil that it could be easily seen. The excitement became great, and a stock company was formed to develop the "find." Some one, to ascertain the true value of the "well" sent some of the stuff brought up by the drill to the government assay office at Chicago and received a reply that "if the fellows that poured oil in that hole had used crude instead of refined oil they might have carried their joke farther." That ended the excitement and also the drilling. It was years afterwards that Leeds and the other jokers told the real story of the "oil find" at Waterbury.

John Groub's dwelling on the SE of 19 was a sod house, built after the custom of those primitive days. In it was held the first school meeting of the township. The Groub family still own the land first taken by them besides the farm upon which they now live, which includes the Heaton, Endicott and Curtis land in section 33. In the great blizzard of the winter of '88 John Groub saved the lives of all the children in the school which his sister, Anna, was teaching in a school house then located about twenty rods southeast of his house, but was in turn himself saved by a scream from his sister after he had become confused and lost in the storm.

In the early '80s a slight change in a U. S. tariff schedule caused a small rolling mill in a New York town to discharge its workmen and close its doors. At that time the attention of the whole civilized world was directed to the great fertile plains of the Missouri valley. The discharged workmen and their foreman caught the fever and a hundred of them came west. One evening a man driving a span of horses hitched to a spring wagon stopped in front of the hotel at Waterbury and asked the first man he saw if there was any government land vacant in that vicinity. The citizen who chanced to be Mr. E. S. Waterbury, replied that there was lots of it. Without asking any more questions the stranger drove on out upon the surrounding prairie. He wandered about over several miles and at length returned. "I can't see any difference between vacant land and that that's occupied," he remarked as he again stopped at the hotel. "There isn't any difference," was the answer. "You must get some one who is familiar with it to point it out to you." The stranger decided to wait until morning before searching further, and drove around to the livery barn, then kept by Geo. N. Price. He jumped out of the

wagon and began to unhitch the team. "I don't know that I understand how to undo this gearing," he remarked as the man in charge of the barn came out to help take care of the horses. He had commenced by pulling out the lines, taking off the crupper, unbuckling the tugs and was trying to take out the back piece when the hostler came to his assistance. The next morning in company with a locator he renewed his search for vacant land. He finally succeeded in finding some land that suited him, and put a filing on the SW of 30 in Marlar township, taking some more across the line in Buffalo county. He went to work with a vigor that under other conditions would have insured success. For a time he did well. He opened a small store, established a creamery and secured a post-office, which was supplied by the Waterbury-Miller route, and to it his own name was given. He became very popular because of his sterling integrity and general good nature. He was active in all public enterprises and fond of all kinds of field sports. The old Waterbury ball nine that lost but one game in seven years, owed much of its success to his encouragement. He was a man who had never been in school a day in his life, yet probably no man in the county had wider general information than he. Especially was he good authority on all matters concerning the American tariff. The hard times compelled him to close his store and the post-office was abandoned for want of patrons. He moved to Wessington Springs, then to Artesian and finally to Rome, N. Y., where he still resides. Jerauld county never had a better citizen than J. C. Longland, the old-time rolling mill foreman.

Another among the sterling men who settled Marlar township was Ambrose Baker. He placed his homestead filing on the S half of the NW and the N half of the SW of 20, adjoining Geo. Groub on the north. His son, Herbert, took the 160 acres directly east of him, and together they had one of the finest half sections in the county. This farm of Ambrose Baker is now owned by Walter Hyde, who has recently purchased the Templeton store.

The southeast 80 of section 20 was taken as a homestead by S. T. Leeds, now of Wessington Springs and as such he made proof for it. Sam was among the first comers to the western part of Jerauld county and I shall have more to say of him before I am done with these western townships. His hearty good nature has helped many a poor discouraged fellow to throw off the blues.

Then a long jump, ten miles and a half to the Waterbury postoffice, for it has been moved from where it was when John Groub wanted to buy a stamp and an envelope. On April 1, 1902, it was moved three miles east and three quarters of a mile south to the residence of Clark Wetherell, on the NW of 25. It is housed in a building 10 by 12 feet in size

that is an "old timer." In 1883 a young lady named Annie Salter came out from Germania, Iowa, and put a homestead entry on the NW of 30 in Pleasant township, adjoining Clark Wetherell's farm on the east. She was of firmer character than most girls and went at work to make a home and a farm on her quarter section. She had her shanty made 10x12 and so strong that it could be rolled about over the prairie and not fall to pieces. The next thing needed was breaking and she had about 20 acres of that done. Thereafter she plowed and cultivated it herself. A well was needed and at it she went. A young lady named Inghram, a niece of Mrs. Wetherell, assisted by lifting the dirt out of the hole while Miss Salter dug and filled the bucket. Twenty-eight feet down into the ground a vein of water was found. She then placed kerosene barrels, one above the other, for curbing, making them solid with dirt packed about them. The well is still there and is pointed to by the old settlers as the work of two slender girls but little more than twenty-one years of age. Miss Salter afterward sold her farm and went back to Germania, where she married a druggist and still resides. The shanty she sold to Mr. Wetherell, who uses it as before stated. After the disastrous prairie fire of April 2, 1889, two families, Frank Smith's and another whose name I have not learned, found shelter for a time in this little building. Four postal routes now go out from this country office—one to Gann Valley, one to Hyde, one to Wessington Springs and one to Crow Lake. It has 40 boxes and about 75 patrons.

Again I mounted the wheel and started for the west side of the county, determined that this time I would avoid telephones and so escape being called in to help a "day or two" in the home office. It was in the middle of September and the hottest week of the year. I was again strongly reminded of the wisdom of the old toper at the temperance meeting. When the lecturer asked "someone" to tell him "what caused more misery in the world than drink" the toper yelled out "thirst." I had taken the road to Templeton and the first well I found after leaving the Springs was on section four of Media township. Harry Holmes stood by the pump sending a beautiful stream of clear, sparkling water—it certainly did look beautiful that hot day—into a water trough, from which a span of splendid horses were leisurely drinking their fill. I followed their example—drinking from a cup instead of the trough—while Harry worked the pump. Nothing ever tasted better, for the water in that well is good. He took me about the place, showing me the buildings, the sheep, the hogs—fine Durocs—and among other things the alfalfa pasture where his hogs can almost reach maturity without grain of any kind. The farm contains 577 acres, all inclosed with a woven wire fence, 45 inches high and all in section 4. The sheep-barn is made of galvanized

iron with 16 foot posts and arranged for a hay stack in the center. The other buildings are in good repair, some of them new and all newly painted. The farm is owned by Frank McGuire of Defiance, Iowa.

Two miles west of the farm upon which Harry Holmes resides the four townships, Media, Pleasant, Harmony and Chery corner. When I reached this point I stopped and made a few notes of 25 years ago. At that time the government surveyor had filed his plats of Media and Chery townships and they had been published in the U. S. land office at Mitchell, but Harmony and Pleasant were then known as unsurveyed lands, though the engineers were busily at work running the lines. The townships were then only known by their numbers, Media being 107—65, Chery 107—65, while Pleasant and Harmony were not even numbered. The settlers on these unsurveyed lands were simply "squatters," ready to move at a moment's notice when the surveyor's lines should be run, if they found they had made their "improvements" on the wrong quarters.

On section 6 of Media, all four quarters had been taken. The southeast quarter had a very substantial farm house, where Mrs. Lydia G. Swatman lived, so as to be near her daughter, Mrs. J. N. Cross, who lived in the big two-story grout house on the NE of 7 across the section line south. On the NE of 6 Lydia Swatman's son, Ben, had a sod house and stable, but lived with his mother most of the time. Once a month he went to his sod house and "lived there over night." This was what was called "holding down" a claim and was the "custom of the country." Every old settler can recall instances of this kind. The sod or frame shanty, with a single one-sash window, through which the stove and table could be plainly seen. On the stove could be placed the pancake griddle, and on it, always, a halfbaked cake, which with the dishes on the table would indicate that the owner had been suddenly called away and was liable to return at any moment. I have known instances where the halfbaked cake would rest upon the griddle until it was removed by the mice. Many a settler proved up on his claim on a five-year residence who had not spent a month on his land in the whole time. That practice was not peculiar to that time nor to this country. It is done today wherever there is public land open to settlement and will be continued until the domain of Uncle Sam is all deeded to private individuals.

But my pencil has been running off by itself again and it's time I brought it back to section 6—107—65. On the SW of this section R. S. Vessey filed his tree claim right, then little dreaming that a quarter of a century later he would be the candidate of the majority party for governor of one of the great states of the Union. He was then mighty busy getting himself established as a settler on what was afterward marked

on the chart as the SE of 12—107—66. On the NW of this section, 6—107—65, F. S. Coggshall had placed a pre-emption filing.

To the northeast of me lay section 31 of 108—65, the southwest section of that township. On this section was settled David Paxton, Wm. Taubman, Geo. Homewood and J. F. Bolton, while G. S. Eddy had a timber culture right on the NW quarter.

To the northwest of where I stood lies one of the sections that the wisdom of the U. S. congress had ordered set apart for the education of the future generations of children that should dwell upon these great plains.

Upon the section lying to the southwest the northeast section of Pleasant township, two brothers and their brother-in-law squatted in the early spring of 1883, S. O. McElwain was on the SE quarter, Henry McElwain on the SW quarter and D. C. Hewitt on the NE quarter. These three made the beginning of the settlement on that portion of the unsurveyed land afterward known as 107—66 and later as Pleasant township. On the NW quarter of this section Frank Coggshall, once county treasurer of Jerauld county, placed his soldiers' homestead right and there he lived for a number of years. When the surveyor had completed his work and 107—66 came upon the market, Henry McElwain put his filing on the NE of 3 and Robt. M. Hiatt took the SW of 1 as a homestead.

Nearly all of section 2 was taken by squatters before it was open for filings. J. D. Powell got the SE quarter, A. R. Powell the SW and Andrew Faust, for whom Fauston was subsequently named, settled on the NW quarter. When the land became subject to filing F. S. Coggshall made a timber culture entry for the NE quarter. A few years later, in the stress of hard times, F. S. Coggshall was one day sitting in the door of his barn, talking with some of his neighbors, among whom was J. D. Powell, afterward auditor for two terms, when Coggshall remarked, "I tell you boys, I am broke, busted. The \$7000 I brought to this county is gone and I haven't a cent. J. D. buy that tree claim over there." "Good Lord, Frank!" remarked Powell, "I could not raise a cent, if it would buy the township." "Yes you can," said Coggshall. "Give me four hundred dollars for it, it's the best quarter in the township. Get me \$100 down and pay the balance when you can." J. D. borrowed the \$100 and soon after paid the remainder. Coggshall moved away and Powell stayed. Today Powell owns the S half and the NE quarter of 2, every acre of which is cheap at \$35. The Coggshall homestead, where the above conversation occurred, is now owned by Harry Thompson, who came here last March from Merrill, Iowa. In these later days things are different. Prices are better, and crops are better. It almost seems as though good prices make better crops.

The early settlers on section 3 were Henry McElwain, as before mentioned, on the NE quarter, A. G. Swanson on the SE. Perry Eddy on the SW and S. F. Huntley on the NW. The latter was a squatter, building his sod house and stable and establishing his residence there before the land was subject to filing. After living the required length of time on this quarter he moved across the township line to his soldiers' homestead on the SE of 33—108—66. There the caller will find him today the same true, cultured gentleman that lived in the sod shanty on the "unserved."

Henry McElwain lives in Wessington Springs, doing as much for the convenience of the people as any man in the town. Perry Eddy has gone back to Illinois, but Andrew Swanson yet remains on the SE of 3. He has prospered well with the passing years and is contented.

After passing the NW of 3, I turned southwest across Geo. Strong's pre-emption, the NE of 4, and trundled along until I reached the residence of Samuel Marlenee, on the SW of 4, tired and thirsty. My! but Sam has a good well.

Probably no one man in Jerauld county has been more essential to its improvement, or development, than Sam Marlenee. I venture to say that the only court house in the state that had not one penny of graft to anybody, in its construction, was built by him, by contract, on the hill in Wessington Springs. A more capable or honest carpenter never swung a hammer or shoved a jack plane. Possessed of a high degree of mechanical skill his interest in his work has often led him to do the work so well that the profits of the job were absorbed in the extra work that he did. In one instance, the building of C. W. Lane's house in Wessington Springs, Mr. Lane voluntarily added \$100 so that Mr. Marlanee should not really lose money on the work. One would think that the old verse had been his motto:

"In the ancient days of art

The builders wrought with extreme care,

Each minute and unseen part

For the gods see everywhere."

He has put up more buildings in the county than any other two carpenters in it, yet today he is comparatively a poor man. His independence of spirit and speech has made life on the farm peculiar fascinating to him. He lives today among the hills on the SW of 4—107—66, where he homesteaded in 1884. In the civil war he was twice a soldier and twice honorably discharged. Quiet and unassuming, yet the Rock of Gibraltar is not more firmly set in its place than he in his opinion, where he thinks he is right. He has represented the republicans of Pleasant township and been a member of more conventions than any other man in the county.

On section five of Pleasant township which I passed on the south line the early settlers were George Knieriem, on the NW quarter, a brother of Henry Knieriem of Franklin. George came from Germany after he became of age, but had learned to speak English so perfectly that only his name would cause one to suspect that he was of foreign birth. He was in the artillery with Sherman and delighted in telling of a duel between one gun of his battery and a Confederate field piece on Kenesaw mountain. He is now somewhere on the Pacific coast.

The NE of 5 was taken by Kate J. Knieriem, a sister of George and the SW by Sam Marlenee as a tree claim.

The SE quarter of five was taken by J. J. Snyder, who married a daughter of Hiram Blowers, of Wessington Springs. He stammered badly in his speech. At one time he entered the office of the True Republican in the county seat and after many guttural sounds and facial contortions said something to George Havens, one of the printers. Havens was afflicted with stammering as badly as Snyder and when excited could scarcely speak a word. His first thought was that Snyder was making fun of his impediment and instantly became very angry. In his attempt to reply he "went Snyder one better." Snyder thought he was being mimicked and was furious with rage before Havens had said a word. Blosser, the editor, became so convulsed with laughter at the ludicrous scene that he was hardly able to interfere. Both Havens and Snyder were large men and an encounter between them would not only have made "pi," but would have turned the whole office into a "hell-box."

The NE of 6 is where Herman Hinnners took a quarter section of land on the public domain. He now lives on a farm near Humbolt, Iowa.

South of Hinnners, on the SE of 6, lived Wm. Toaz, another early settler who succumbed to the hard times and left the state. He now lives at Grand Ledge, Mich.

Down in the valley west of the Toaz quarter I found the residence of John Youtcey. The beginning of this farm was made by a man named McConnell, who was told about a deep water hole, now dry, near where the buildings are located, by the old stage driver, who in those days carried the mail from Mitchell to Ft. Thompson. The trail led through this valley and McConnell rode up from Mitchell to look at the place. It looked like an ideal place for a ranch. Plenty of water, unlimited range for then there was no one west of the hills, and the high knolls to the north and west to keep off the severe winds of winter. McConnell squatted there in the spring of 1882 and began his preparations for ranching, laying claim to a strip a mile in length. When the surveyors stalked off the country this claim proved to be the east half of the west of section 6. For some reason McConnell seems to have grown tired of

his project and sold what right he had to a young carpenter named John Murphy, who placed his homestead filing there when the land became subject to entry. Afterwards James Foster purchased this land of Murphy, added more to it, put up good ranch buildings and for several years made money out of it as a cattle ranch. He now lives at Ridgeway, Mich.

When I had crossed the west line of section 6, of Pleasant, I was on the south side of 1 in Crow. David King on the NE quarter and W. W. King on the SE quarter, obtained the east half of this section from the government. The SW was a timber culture entry held by Jas. Fogen.

The NW of 1 in Crow township was held as a homestead by Miss Minnie Stanley, now Mrs. S. W. Boyd, of Pleasant. She is one of the many women who have done their full share in the upbuilding and development of Jerauld county. The claims were held, the schools were taught, churches and Sunday schools kept going, mainly by their unceasing and untiring efforts. Many a man who came through the hard times tired, but successful, would have failed utterly in the effort but for the help he received from his brave and steadfast wife.

One of my objective points in this trip was the Burger homestead in section 12. This farm includes the W half of the NE quarter and the E half of the NW quarter, and also the SE quarter which was taken as a tree claim. Mr. Burger has been one of the long-time residents of the county. This place was at one time used for school purposes, most of the school children being residents of this corner of the township and a long ways from the school house. Mr. Burger now lives in Wessington Springs and the farm is occupied by Mr. Traylor, the school clerk of the township. The examinations of the records of his office was my purpose in coming here. The first school census of this township has not been preserved among the records.

The east half of the NE of 12 was taken by Wm. Hern as a pre-emption. The balance of the section, the SW quarter and the W half of the NW quarter was taken by E. D. and S. E. Herman.

A postoffice is generally a good place to look for news so I again directed my course toward the Waterbury P. O. on Clark Wetherell's farm in 25. Clark isn't much of a gossip, but he's a jolly good fellow and a good deal interested in the job I have undertaken. He and his resolute wife are among those who can tell you from their personal experience what was summed up in the expression "hard times in Dakota." But never a whine or a whimper from either, and I imagine that her upper lip was a little the firmest. When the crop was short and the prices low Clark joined several of his neighbors in an expedition to some northern counties where crops were better and help needed. The women folks stayed at home and kept things in order until the men came back.

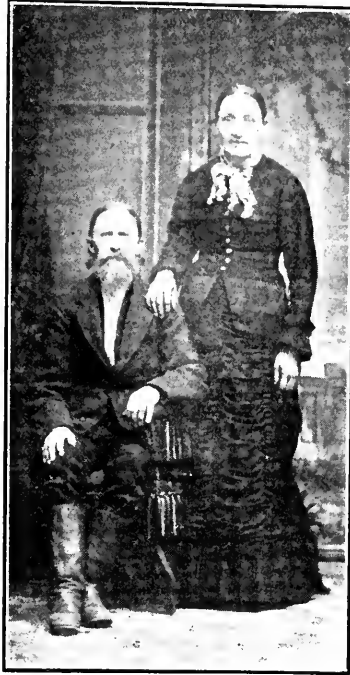
Down in Fairchild, Wis., in 1887 there lived a man whose hobby was growing mangel wertzels. No one in that vicinity could raise beets as large as those that grew in his lot, and he was very proud of the fact. In that town the meat market was the place where people displayed any unusual production, and this man would, every fall, put in a conspicuous place in the market the largest mangel he had grown. That year Clark Wetherell came out to the territory to look at the NW of 25 in Crow township, which, without seeing he had bought of James Fogarty for \$1000 in 1884. In a garden on the SE of 23 Capt. Vrooman had a large number of very large mangel wertzels—larger than was even grown by the man at Fairchild. Wetherell immediately formed a plan to discomfit his old neighbor. He took one of Vrooman's largest beets and when he got back to his home town he place the vegetable in the meat market. Shortly afterward his neighbor came around where Wetherell was telling of the wonders of Dakota and said, "Clark, where did you get that mangel?" "Mangel!" exclaimed Wetherell, "that's not a mangel, that's a breakfast radish, I'd have brought you a mangel, but I couldn't get one in the door of the car." That year Wetherell homesteaded the NE of 25, buying a relinquishment from Wm. Austin. The N half of 25 has been his home ever since.

One day in the summer of 1883, E. S. Waterbury, his son, Will, and a party of land seekers from one of the eastern states, were driving about the country in the vicinity of what was then the thriving town of Waterbury. About the center of section 18—107—67 they saw a claim shanty and went to it. It was located on the W half of the E half of the section. Near by was a prosperous prairie dog "town," the inhabitants of which barked and chattered at the intruders as they drew near. Close about the door of the shack, picketed with strings tied to pegs driven in the ground were numerous rattlesnakes. The settler, Abel Scyoc assured the visitors that the reptiles were harmless, but the sight was too much. The land seekers went back to Waterbury and the next morning started for home. They never came back. Mr. Scyoc was probably the first white resident of the township, although H. B. Farren, now of Gann Malley, established himself in bachelor quarters on the same section Sept. 16, 1882. Scyoc was from the south and an ex-confederate soldier. He proved up on his claim, sold it to Chas. Platner and went "back to Dixie" where he married and died.

The town of Waterbury was on the west side of section 21, part in the NW quarter and part in the SW quarter. On the SW quarter of 29, near the center of the section, only a mile and a half away, was the rival town of Sulphur Springs. Between the sites of the two towns and



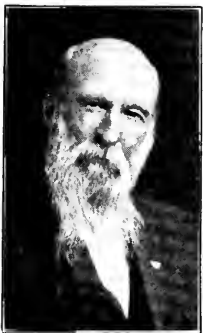
Dan. C. Needham.



Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah McWilliams.



Joseph Ponsford.



J. M. Corbin.



Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Kellogg.



Clayton Brown.

about equi-distant from each, is a deep valley, that, in those days, was a favorite camping ground for the Crow Creek Indians.

A couple of fellows had started a saloon in Sulphur Springs and after running the business a few weeks had dissolved partnership and in liquidation of accounts the hotel man, Conrad, had seized a couple of barrels of whiskey. He placed it in a shanty down on the flat southwest of Sulphur Springs, on land now owned by A. G. Kayser. The whiskey soon disappeared but the barrels remained in the shanty for some time.

Among the people who settled in and about Waterbury and Sulphur Springs were many from the eastern states who came heavily armed ready for combat with the savages, of whom they lived in constant dread.

One evening in the fall of 1883 both towns were thrown into a fever of excitement by the news that the old chief White Ghost with about four hundred followers had camped in the valley between the towns.

Waterbury and Sulphur Springs, like all towns had some young fellows who loved fun more than they feared anything. Sam Leeds, with one companion, whose name I have forgotten, procured some of the liquid assets of the defunct saloon and after dark set out for the Sioux encampment. They found that some of the lodges had been placed on the hills and some in the valley. Sam and his companion seated themselves on the hillside in the light of some camp fires and were soon trying to converse, by words and signs, with the Indians of both sexes. The red people could understand but few of the English words but the sign of looking at the stars through a telescope was at once understood. It was not long until pandemonium reigned in the valley. The warriors danced and shouted while the squaws rolled like great balls down the side of the hill, laughing and shouting with glee. The noise was heard in both towns and the whites began immediately to get under arms and barricade the houses. In Waterbury, while the rumpus in the valley was at its height, some one fired a gun. The report at once spread through the town that the Indians had commenced an attack on the village. Commotion was supreme. Men ran shouting through the streets, while women and children screamed with terror. Sam Leeds and his chum, down in the valley were getting nervous. The warriors had stopped their demonstrations and were sitting sullenly around one of the largest fires, while the squaws continued their rollicking sport. Sam watched the conditions anxiously for some time and then turned to tell his companion he thought it was more seemly for them to be among their own people, but found that he was alone. The other fellow had evidently read Sam's thoughts and acted upon them. In a few moments Leeds discovered a safe way of retreat toward Sulphur Springs and took advantage of it. The excitement in the towns and in the valley soon after subsided. In the morning the In-

dians were gone. But one lasting result came from the escapade. Whether it was from the impression he made upon his savage acquaintances of that night, or the effect of mature reflection, the fact remains that Sam Leeds is known among the Crow Creek Sioux to this day as "the beautiful blacksmith."

Among other things that greatly amused, and sometimes annoyed the people of Waterbury in the summer of 1884, was a crane caught by Will Dunlap. The bird soon became a general pet and went every where. No door was left open that he did not enter. No house, church, or place of business, was safe from his intrusion. Guests at the hotel table were often startled to see the long bill of the crane come sliding into their plates and taking away some morsel that suited the fancy of the bird.

A young man came out from Ohio, armed with all the weapons of war to fight Indians and incidentally shoot buffalo and deer. After becoming thoroughly disgusted with a country in which he could stand no chance of satisfying the cravings of his ambition he traded his beautiful rifle to Dunlap for the pet crane and took it back to the Buckeye state.

I spent nearly two weeks with Will Waterbury at his residence on the old townsite, going over with him the days when the ground upon which he lives had the largest town in the two counties of Jerauld and Buffalo. He kindly furnished me with a few copies of the newspapers published in Waterbury in 1885. From one of them the "American Home," published by M. B. McNeil, under date of January 6th, 1885, I copy the following item concerning the neighboring town:

"Sulphur Springs has no land mark now. The old hotel was burned last Wednesday. The building was owned by Chas. Conrad and was insured, though if for enough to cover the loss we do not know. It was occupied by Mr. Wheeler's family, who lost all of the clothing and furniture. The furniture was insured for about \$300."

From the same paper of date February 3, 1885, I quote this:

CARD OF THANKS.

Frank P. Blair, Post No. 46, Department of Dakota, G. A. R.: Do hereby tender their thanks to Comrade Stevens, Mr. H. E. Rex, Mr. Wm. Dunlap and Miss Minnie Waterbury for their kind assistance during our first annual camp-fire. A. E. White, Com.; W. A. Rex, Adj."

Sections 28 and 29 dip down into the valley of the east branch of Crow Creek, while 30 and 31 are almost wholly in the valley of the main stream. The SE of 29 was obtained from the government by U. E. Babb, who was one of the prominent citizens of the township. Near the southeast corner of this quarter the county has constructed across this branch

of the creek one of the most expensive bridges in the county. It is used but little, and in fact, it is unsafe for a heavy team. The planks are rotted and badly broken and any attempt to take a loaded wagon over it would be to invite the disaster that would almost certainly follow. At the time it was built it was the only steel bridge in the county. The abutments of stone were built by Pat Brady, a carpenter, then living in Wessington Springs, and are apparently as solid as they were when placed there fifteen years ago. When built it was a necessity for the people of the southwest part of the county who did their trading at the town of Waterbury. Now the roads on both sides of the valley have been so badly washed by the heavy rains of the past few years as to be almost impassible for anything more cumbersome than a bicycle. The railroad station at Wessington Springs, however, has changed the line of travel so that this now remote bridge is used but little. This condition will not be for long. I think, for the railroad so confidently expected and so long looked for by the people of Waterbury and Sulphur Springs will yet traverse Crow township and the engine will whistle for Waterbury station. But no one should get excited about it, for all will have plenty of time to get out of the way.

Across the creek, south, lie sections 32 and 33, both owned by A. G. Kayser, whose ranch of 3000 acres includes also the S half and NW quarter of 34, the E half of 31, all of 29 and the S half of 28. I followed down the stream across 29, looking in every pool for ducks. Just before entering the big valley of Crow Creek I stopped. Off to the right was the big sulphur spring, and up on the point of hills above it the site of the town of that name. The spring, the hills and a few cellar holes are there yet. This half section, the west half of 29, was taken as a pre-emption and homestead by John R. Miller, who located the town and cemetery on it. For some time he masqueraded under the name of Scott, and none of the settlers knew his real name until he advertised in the Sulphur Springs newspapers that he would make proof for his land. I went on west to the corner section. Here they built school house No. 3, when the township was organized for school purposes and named in 1884. It was the home at one time of the largest school in the county. The first teacher in this building was Miss Minnie Stanley, now Mrs. S. W. Boyd, of Pleasant township, and among her pupils was Miss Dunham, now Mrs. J. L. Coram, of the Oliver hotel in Wessington Springs. They two are all that remain in the county to represent that term of the Sulphur Springs school.

Across the creek from where I stood, but near the location of the old scholl house is the home of A. G. Kayser, on the northeast corner of the NE of 31. Mr. Kayser came to this farm from Parkston, S. D., about

three years ago and now is the owner of one of the best cattle ranches in the county. The quarter upon which the ranch buildings are placed passed into the possession of several different persons before the government finally parted with the title. Geo. Gilbert, Frank Rogers, Swartwout and a man named Hubbard, held it, each in turn, until the latter made final proof for it and sold it to Herman, who made up the ranch nearly as it is now. Up to the time Herman purchased it this quarter had remained practically unimproved. He came out from Mason City, Iowa, to go into the business of raising cattle, his first move was to get a house to live in. Over on the hill in 29 was the foundation of the old Sulphur Springs hotel, much as it was when that building was partially destroyed by the fire in the early part of 1885. The stone from this spot were taken to the site selected for the new farm house and placed in a wall where they still remain. The next move was for a superstructure. The first real frame house built in that part of the township was still standing where Frank Rogers built it, on the SE of 28. This was transported bodily and placed on the wall, where it forms the east part of the house in which Mr. Kayser lives. What now constitutes the east wing of the cattle shed was also brought from the Rogers place. When the Glen creamery went out of business and was sold the ice house was brought to the Kayser ranch, where it is doing service as a granary.

South of the Kayser house, but a part of the ranch, is SE of 31, the old Chas. Conrad pre-emption. He figured for some time as landlord of the Sulphur Springs hotel.

In the spring of 1883, Chas. Marvin came to Dakota Territory from Bremer county, Iowa, to "look around". By the time he reached Mitchell he was so well pleased with the appearance of the country that he made a homestead entry for the NW of 18—106—67, now Logan township. In the fall of that year he came out again and built a claim shanty and established his residence. Early the next spring he moved his family out from Iowa and began in earnest the life of a frontiersman on the plains. He still owns the land upon which he placed his first filing, although he has changed his dwelling place to the SE of 6 in the same township. He now owns the S half and NE quarter of 6 and the NE of 7, making 800 acres of as good land as any one could wish. It has not been all "smooth sailing" for him, however. In the blizzard of 1888 he lost all the cattle he had and eleven years later, in 1899, his house on the place where he now lives was destroyed by fire. Yet, for all that, he has prospered.

No man in the county is better or more favorably known than Joe Ponsford. His land holdings includes the N half of 30, the east half of 19, the west half of 31 and the NE of 17. One of the 1883 settlers he still retains his residence in Crow township on the farm with which he has been

identified for over a quarter of a century. In fact, he was the only one of those who took government land in Crow township in '83 to vote there at the last election, Will Waterbury being the only other person who was a resident of that township twenty-five years ago to vote at the election of 1908.

One morning in October, I set out from W. E. Waterbury's for a run down through Logan. The old road along which E. S. Waterbury and his son, Tom, groped and floundered on the evening of the great blizzard in 1888, is now fenced off and no one travels it. So I took another road through the same pasture and reached the highway on the north line of 28 where A. E. McCall, with his steam thresher, was shelling out the tremendous crop of wheat and flax that had been grown on the old Dan Waterbury claim, the NW of 28, now owned by Gotlobb Krueger. The machine was doing good work and both McCall and Krueger wore satisfied smiles that were Taft-like in their expressiveness. Krueger sold his flax crop for a little over a thousand dollars, for which he received a check before he had drawn more than a sample to market. He declared he would never do that again, for he was deprived of the pleasure of receiving the money when he dumped a load into the bin at the elevator.

The road on the section line was ideal for wheeling and the spin down to Waterbury P. O. was a delightful one. After chatting a few minutes with the genial P. M., I headed south. I soon crossed the extreme north line reached by the prairie fire on the 28th of April '99. The change of wind that sent the flames into Main's buildings and wiped out the old town of Waterbury turned the fire southeast at this point and saved the homes of Clark Wetherell, Capt. Vrooman and several others that lay directly north of it. Had it reached the Wetherell farm it would, in all probability, have destroyed a number of buildings that are associated with the early settlement of that vicinity. Wetherell has gathered up quite a number of the old landmarks and preserved them. These old buildings which Clark has gathered into a really comfortable home have a story, in the aggregate that is worth telling.

The north half of the house was brought by Ed and Dan Waterbury from Polo, Ill., and probalby has more white oak, ash, and hemlock in it than any other house in the country. That lumber was cut in the woods near Polo, sawed into boards and dimension stuff, stored away in a dry place and seasoned for about fifteen years and then shipped to Kimball, S. D., by rail and hauled by wagon to Waterbury, where it was the first building erected on the townsite. The south half of Wetherell's house was built by S. T. Leeds for a residence in the town of Waterbury in 1884. He sold it to Harley Barnum, now mail carrier at Crow Lake, who moved it to the NE of 30 in Pleasant township, to use in "holding

down" his homestead. He kept it there five or six years and then sold the building to George Wicks, who took it to his homestead on the NE of 35 in Crow township. Wicks lived in the house, which seems but little the worse for its travels, seven years. About 1902 Wetherell purchased the claim shanty from Wicks and gave it a permanent location by the side of the Waterbury building. Wetherell's barn, a good substantial structure, is made of the lumber once contained in one of the two-story buildings in Waterbury. The chicken house was at one time a barn on one of the farms in Crow township, but whose I have forgotten.

On the SW of 25, where R. Kelley once had a tree claim, John Wicks now has a good farm and farm house. He also has the SE of 26 across the road.

The SW of 26 is a part of the farm of Geo. W. King and in the '80s was owned by E. J. Gray. He also has the SE of 27, which was "proved up" by Mittie G. Kellogg, and the NE of 34, where John Plank had his homestead. Mr. King has been in Jerauld county since 1883. His whole time of residence here has been in Pleasant and Crow townships. The NW of 31 in Pleasant was his pre-emption and the NW of the same section was his tree claim. He moved onto his present farm in Crow in 1894 and has prospered as have all the others in that part of the county, who came through the hard times and hung on.

On the NE of 35 of Crow township Geo. Wicks made a homestead entry in 189—. This quarter had been held by E. J. Gray as a tree claim, but being abandoned Geo. contested Gray's entry and made it his home. It is a fine quarter and what makes it more attractive is the neat and trim condition of the grounds about the house. No city lawn shows greater care. George is preparing to erect a large barn and has had a good deal of trouble to get the stone for the foundation, for the reason that "nigger heads" are not common in that vicinity.

At the northwest corner of 35, I turned south, ran along the west side of that quarter, once held by C. E. Lucas, and past the SW of 35 with the old Norin quarter in the distance, past the spot where Lyme Goodrich had his residence and which was the first place at which Solomon stopped after killing Rohbe. The Goodrich quarter is now owned by Harvey King, who has been living there during the last two years. From the King house the Combs hill is in plain sight.

I entered Logan township on the line between sections 2 and 3, the old Combs & Harris ranch on the east, now owned by Henry P. Will and Joseph O'Brien, and the August Johnson pre-emption, of 20 years ago, on the west. Ahead of me on the SE of 3, I could see the home of Z. P. De Forest, or De La Fray, which was the name of his Huguenot ancestors in France, and I dismounted at his door just in time for dinner.

He is one of the earliest of the early settlers in Logan township. While eating the midday meal he gave me considerable information about the early settlement of Logan, and incidentally something of the story of his life and of the interesting history of his family. The De La Frays, like many other Huguenot families, escaped the massacre of St. Bartholomew, by changing their names and succeeded in escaping to America. Here they assumed the English form of the name which is the one by which their descendant in Logan township is known. Z. P. De Forest, ex-druggist and ex-telegraph operator, lives alone on the land he obtained from the government 25 years ago. In my two hours visit with him he made no boast of his ancestry, yet the easily correct form of his speech was proof positive of the gentility and refinement of the family of De Forest. A man living so long alone will certainly drop into the forms of speech of the people by whom he was surrounded in his childhood. Yet during our whole conversation I did not detect one ungrammatical expression.

From De Forest's place I went over to the Combs hill to look about the spot that was the center of so much excitement in November, 1885. The buildings are all gone, and nothing but the cellar hole and tall weeds tell where the house, barns and corrals were located. After climbing the hill and looking about the premises I walked out to the old trail leading across country from Waterbury to Crow Lake, and along which Solomon rode when he went to surrender himself to the authorities.

A. E. Hanebuth, now of Wessington Springs, was one of the early settlers of the township and for many years had his residence on the SW of 1. The farm is now occupied by Chas. Segar, who was busy putting up hay in the vicinity of Combs hill.

A mile south of the Hanebuth farm is the farm home of D. B. Paddock, for several years one of the commissioners of the county. The Green Mountain school house was located on this farm and in it one of the first Sunday schools of the township was held. The farm is now owned by J. F. Jones, who purchased it of Mr. Paddock a short time before he was killed.

The school records of Logan township having been destroyed by fire at the time Chas. Marvin's house was burned, but little could be gathered concerning the township schools. The data of the school organization, and of what occurred in the early years, I will have to get from the county archives, and from the memory of the settlers of that time.

Mr. Jones' farm includes the NW of 12, Freeman Paddock's claim, the SW of 12, D. B. Paddock's homestead, and the SE of 11, where John Sleighter had his pre-emption right in the '80s.



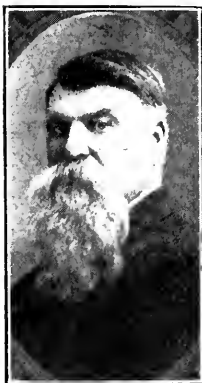
Geo. Titus.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Posey.



E. H. Vrooman.



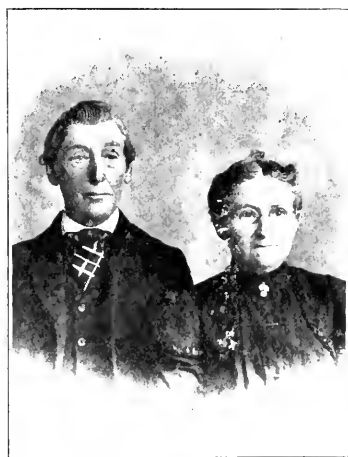
Geo. H. Young.



Mrs. D. A. Hall.



Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Robeson.



Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Robeson.

From the Jones residence I took an "angling" road southwest across section 14, crossing Mrs. Wheelock's claim, the NE quarter, August Buckholtz' homestead and timber culture claims on the SE and SW quarters and Andrew Wilson's homestead on the NW quarter.

On this NW of 14 Andrew Wilson performed a feat that was one of the most remarkable things accomplished in those early days. In his effort to get water on his claim he dug a well 155 feet deep, doing all the digging with a shovel, while his wife and the girls drew the dirt to the surface with a common windlass. He got good water and plenty of it.

Across the section line west, on the NE of 15 lived H. A. Robinson, at one time a merchant of Lyndale. His son, Roy, was the first white child born in Logan township.

After crossing section 14, I walked along the north line of 22 for one of my bicycle tires had sprung a leak, until I reached the home of Andrew Pflaum on the NE quarter. Here, since the spring of 1884, has lived this veteran of the Civil war, or what is left of him—he lost one arm in the fight at Champion Hill. The loss of his arm was the second wound received that day. The same grit that kept him in the firing line as a soldier has served him in good stead as a settler. He has endured drought, hot winds and prairie fires in the years gone by, but he can now look with pride about him at his pleasant, comfortable home and sharing the credit with his wife who has been his true helper, say "mother, it paid us to stay." He is not only proud of his home, but he is proud of his family, and well he may be. They have not only been successful in what they have undertaken, but in all the years they toiled together in the prairie home, they never failed him—not once.

I passed the night with Andrew Pflaum and the next morning took the road west through the pasture to where John Boeson lives on the NE of 21. He is clerk of the civil township, but like the school clerk, his records are not old, for the fire that burned Mr. Dykeman's house a few years ago destroyed the township books. This NE of 21 was taken by Squire Atkins in April, 1883, and was his residence until he died a few years later. It is now owned by John Wicks, who also owns the SE quarter of the same section.

John Wicks was one of the early settlers in that township, holding the west half of 22 as a homestead and tree claim. Mr. Wicks was for a number of years closely identified with the schools of Logan township, and the county. An account of his experience with his school through the night of the great blizzard, will form a chapter in the history of the county.

From Boeson's residence I ran south to section 27. On the NW of this section was located what was known in the old times as the Pleasant

Hill school house. In it Sunday school and church services were held twenty years ago.

On this same quarter, the NW of 27, is located the Pleasant Hill cemetery. This section was considerably cut up by the early settlers who took it from the government. John C. Ferris had a 160 acres out of the center of the north half, taking the two center eighties running north and south. The east half of the NE quarter was taken by Henry Krumwied, who is now a member of the Omaha police force. The NE quarter of the SE quarter of this section was taken by Henry Geffiki, who had a blacksmith shop here and did work for a large circle of settlers. The SE quarter of the SE quarter was owned in the '80s by Henry P. Will, who for years has been one of the most successful ranchmen of the county. The west half of the SE quarter and the east half of the SW quarter were a tree claim whose holder's name is not on the chart that I have, while the west half of the west half was a claim held by H. A. Frick.

Near the north line of the section and on the mile long strip held by Mr. Frick, is the cemetery. It is a beautiful spot and for a country churchyard is well kept, though I can see no reason why people who live in the country should not take as great care of the little plat of earth where their friends are at rest as people in the towns or cities. But maybe the beautifying of a grave yard has nothing of love for the departed in it and is only a matter of vanity like the parks. However it is, there are several cemeteries in the county that should receive attention. In this acre are ten graves without headstones and eight with headstones. One stone bears this inscription: "Mary Carrol Frick, born Aug. 20th, 1809, died June 30th, 1894." A span of life that endured while civilization was crossing a hemisphere. In that time the arts and sciences had advanced more than in all the six thousand years gone before; in that time one race of men was destroyed and another made free. The little plat of ground is fenced and well protected from prairie fires.

At the NE corner of 27, I turned south and had a nice run down toward one of the most pleasant valleys I ever saw. The road was good and the weather fine. Off to the left was the house of Peter Schleder, to the right lay the old time residence of H. A. Frick. I turned another corner, ran down to where the creamery once stood, the buildings of which are now scattered over the township, and entering what is sometimes called "Buttermilk Street," I was at Glen, really the loveliest spot it has been my good luck to see in the state.

Glen is certainly a beautiful place. Why it is more lovely than other places or what makes it so, I can not tell. The grass is no greener, the soil no better, the crops no more abundant, the sun no brighter, the hills

no higher, nor the valley any smoother, yet all these things are combined in such a way that one can not help saying "delightful." Some day when the railroad reaches it, tired men and women will go there to lounge in the shade, fish in the pools and rest.

At Glen there is a spacious town hall, but no town; a postmaster, but no post office, an R. F. D., but when I was there the carrier had not been seen for three days.

Glen, in a mercantile sence, and as known to the U. S. Postoffice Department, is one acre in size, located in the northeast corner of the SE of 33 and owned by William Barker.

In 1893 the people in that vicinity petitioned the government for a postoffice. The request was granted and they were told to select a name for the new office. Different persons handed in names to H. A. Frick, the new postmaster, and all the suggestions were forwarded to Washington, where the name Glen, which had been suggested by Harry Frick, now a druggist at Wessington Springs, was adopted by the department. The postoffice was kept in Mr. Frick's residence until the next year and then it was moved into Grandma Frick's house, across the line on section 34. This old landmark is now used as a chicken house on the Cable ranch.

The name Glen followed the postoffice as it was moved from one building to another, until in February, 1908, when, the postoffice being suspended, the name became attached to the store in which the office had been kept. Mr. Barker's store and residence is now Glen. The building is a commodious one and the store room well stocked with such goods as are liable to be wanted in rural communities. Outside of his store Mr. Barker amuses himself with thoroughbred chickens, of which he is a fancier. The breeds that have attracted his attention for some time are the Ringlet Barred Plymouth Rock and the Rhode Island Reds. He has attended a number of South Dakota poultry shows and never failed to have his birds decorated. He expects to attend the Mitchell show as an exhibitor this winter. Near the poultry yards and doing duty as a granary is an old claim shanty, once owned by Frank Rogers.

A good deal of the land about Glen is included in a ranch owned by Mr. Cable of Hudson, Lincoln county, S. D. The ranch is occupied by Mr. D. B. Orear, a cultured gentlemna of extensive information. One of the attractive features of this ranch is the great spring that flows into a walled room at the foot of a gravel hill. The water is cool and free from everything objectionable, the supply would be sufficient for an army.

A half mile east of Glen lives Peter Schleder, who has a splendid farm of 520 acres, most of which is in section 34. Years ago this land was owned by E. R. Burgess. Mr. S. came on to this farm from Aurora

county in 1894 and has added to the improvements until he now owns one of the best in the township.

I enjoyed Mr. Orear's hospitality for the night and the next morning started west from Glen. The section line between 33 and 28 has been vacated as a highway, because it would require three bridges in one mile to make it passable. The road has been located on the half section line in 33, where but one bridge would be required and that one has not been built. The only means of crossing this branch of Smith creek on this road is a great pile of large and small stones thrown into it and over which people can pass without getting into the mud. The crossing is dangerous and but little used, the travel being around by the county line in preference to the risk of driving over the stone crossing. These people have a right to complain of the neglect of the county in not providing them with the one bridge over the creek.

A mile west of Glen in section 32 is Mike Liesh's farm residence. The farm includes 800 acres, a part of which is in Brule county. Mr. Liesh lives in Kimball but he holds onto this land, a part of which he has owned a quarter of a century. I have seen many farms sold for \$100 per acre that were not as good.

Turning north from the Liesch place I ran north to the old Byers farm to which has been added the NW of 32, the S half of 31 and the E half of 30. A branch of Smith creek forms a chain of pools across the NE of 32 where Joseph Byers had his buildings. It was while trying to water his cattle at one of these pools that Mr. Byers got lost and perished in the great blizzard of 1888. The farm now comprising 960 acres is owned by a man in Sioux Falls, but is occupied by Louis Range, who moved here from Winnebago county, Iowa, in the spring of 1907.

From the residence of Louis Range I took the road west to the NW corner of section 32 just to look at the lands where the early settlers lived. H. H. Moulton took from the government two claims in the south half of 29, each a mile long. The old shanty, vacant and deserted, stands on the southwest quarter of the section. The only building west of the Moulton shanty in this county, that is in use is on the NW corner of 32. I leaned the wheel against the fence and went in to look at it. Some school room furniture was lying on the floor, so arranged to form a bin in one corner of the building. A part of the furniture was held in place as part of the bin by the heating stove that was also lying on the floor. The door was kept shut by the bin which was partly filled with wheat. The window glass and sash were broken and gone, the birds were making good use of the room as a haven of "roost." It was the old Dan Sleighter school house of 20 years ago. It reminded me of the story of the wandering Indian, who said that it was not he that was lost, 'twas his wig-

wam. It would cost more to repair it than to build a new one and it will probably never again be used for school purposes. It was first placed on section 17 but has moved about since then until the land upon which it was finally located became a part of the great pasture in which the building is now situated, and it seemingly has been forgotten as a school house. The wanderings of Logan township school houses will be given next week.

The NW of 32, the quarter on which the old school house is located, was obtained from the government by Ira Ellis, who afterward drove the mail stage between Waterbury and Wessington Springs.

A number of the quarter sections of land in the southern part of Logan township, were settled upon by railroad men from Amboy, Ill., who came to the territory in 1883. Among them was H. H. Moulton, who for 35 years had been a clerk in the Illinois Central freight office at Amboy. He was accompanied by his daughters, Helen, Florence and Lizzie, each of whom made the required filings and residence. Mr. Moulton obtained the SW of 29, while Florence took the east half of that section. Lizzie Moulton placed a filing on the south half of 28 and Helen on the NW of the same section.

Wm. Hale was a conductor on the Illinois Central. He also lived at Amboy, but made a tree claim entry for the NW of 31.

For the NE of 31, Ed Coalman, a baggage-master on the C. B. & Q., at Amboy, made a pre-emption filing and "lived" on it the required number of times to make proof.

Timothy Chase, also a railroad man from Amboy, got the NE of 30.

Ed Blakesly and M. Butterfield, both Illinois Central conductors and W. H. Fox, conductor on the C. B. & Q., got the west half and the SE of 19, while W. Patten, another railroad man, all from Amboy, filed on the SE of 17.

John Rogers, who had the NW of 30, was yardmaster for the Illinois Central at Amboy. This claim was finally purchased by Mrs. Dykeman, now Mrs. Barker of Glen, who made proof for it and still holds the title.

None of these railroad men had anything to do with the subsequent development of the township. They were simply claim holders who came out from Amboy and "lived" once in thirty days or once in six months according to the filing they had on the land and after making proof abandoned the country entirely. The land laws of the U. S. at that time provided that the holder of a pre-emption claim should not be absent from his land longer than 30 days at one time and a homesteader must not be absent more than six months in succession.

These uncertain settlers caused a good deal of trouble in after years in getting the school houses located so as to be most convenient for the

actual settlers. Logan township was probably bothered more than any other township in the county. The itinerary of the school buildings of this community, if the term may be properly applied to a building, may be of interest to later settlers.

School house No. 1, known as the "Green Mountain" school house was built on section 12 and never moved but the others had a roving existence.

School house No. 2 was built on the south line of the SW of 17. Draw a line on the township plat from that point to the center of the east line of the SE of 6, then to the center of the NW of 9, from there to the northwest corner of the NW of 32 and you have the line of travel given to the house.

Then draw another line from the center of the north line of the NW of 27 to the center of the west line of the NW of 15, thence to the center of the south line of the SE of 21 and you have the course followed by school house No. 3.

No. 4 is the old Sulphur Springs school house purchased in 1899 of Crow township. Draw a line from the southwest corner of 29 in Crow township to the center of the south line of the SW of 27 in Logan, then east 80 rods to the center of the north line of 34 and you will have the laughable outlines of the wanderings of these institutions up to the present time. Yet these removals were necessary to accommodate the changing settlement, and more will be made in the future or new houses built.

From the old and deserted school house on the NW of 32, I took the section line north, some of the time riding but walking most of the way, for this road has not been traveled enough to keep the grass down.

There was little of interest until I reached sections 18 and 17. The west half of section 18 was taken as homesteads by Eugene Rowe and Chas. Marvin, about the former of whom I could learn but little. The SE quarter was taken by some one as a tree claim. The NE of 18 was a pre-emption taken by James Long in April, 1883. The quarter across the line east was taken by A. S. Fordham, now of Wessington Springs. Mr. Long and Mr. Fordham were brother-in-laws, and so as a matter of economy they put one shanty for the two families, building it across the section line. The two families numbered ten persons, but they were getting a beginning in their new homes and anything would do, for a time, even though it was crowded. While the shanty was being built the families found shelter with Hiram Woodbury down on the SW of 32. Probably no two families in this county saw more of sorrow and hardship than these two during the years that followed.

All were full of hope and they laughed at the discomforts of their situation. Mr. Fordham put a timber culture entry on the SW of 17

and his soldiers' declaratory on the SE quarter, for he was a veteran of the civil war. The first great sorrow came a few weeks after they were settled when Mrs. Long was taken suddenly ill and died on the 20th of July, 1883. She was buried on the hill north of the shanty. This was the first death in the township and spread a visible sadness over the whole community.

Life was not all sorrow and trouble, however, in the new settlement. Crops and prospects were fair and three years after coming to the territory Miss Belle Fordham, on the 25th of April, her 17th birthday, was married to Frank Dykeman. This was the first marriage in the township.

One day Hiram Woodbury, who had now obtained a filing on the SE of 7, came to the shanty on 17 and they took him in. He was suffering from inflammatory rheumatism and the people he had sheltered while they were building their new home several years before, now cared for him in his extremity. All that tender care and nursing could do for him was done, but his malady was fatal and in a couple of weeks he died.

The period of hot winds and hard times came and struck the Fordhams as hard as any. The crops were poor and the prices low, but they stayed. At length the tide turned, with better prices came better crops. The cattle had increased in number and by 1899 Mr. Fordham and his wife determined to leave their farm and move to Kimball, where they could take life a little easier.

On the morning of the 28th of April Mrs. Fordham and her daughter, Mrs. Dykeman, started out from Kimball to drive to the farm. A terrific wind was blowing from the south and the air was full of dust and debris blown up from the prairie. They had driven but a few miles when they saw a dense volume of smoke ahead of them. Some one, heedless of the damage that might be done by a fire driven by such a wind, had applied a match to a field of dry weeds. The fire soon passed beyond the limits of the small field and was at large in the great limitless prairie of dead grass. The wind was steadily widening the head fire and driving it straight toward the center of Logan township. The two women urged on the horses in the faint hope that the fire would be at least checked at Smith creek, then a full running stream. But the creek was no obstacle to the progress of the flames.

At home on 17, Mr. Dykeman was in the house preparing the midday meal for himself and the children. One of the little boys rushed into the room shouting the alarm that a fire was coming. Mr. Dykeman hurried out to find a long stretch of head-fire close upon them. The house and stables were protected by fire-breaks, but the granary was more exposed and was soon in flames. The fire passed leaving the house and stable unharmed. Mr. Dykeman and the children gathered near the house and

watched the burning granary and the smoking prairie. A crackling noise at the window attracted his attention and he saw that the whole inside of the building was in flames. Not a thing was saved from the burning house.

In a short time Mrs. Dykeman and her mother drove up. Only the stables and the animals were left of all the fruits of their years of toil. Dykeman and the boys were exhausted with their efforts to fight off the fire and their lungs were filled with the smoke and dust. That night Mr. Fordham came up from Kimball and both families took up their abode in the stable.

On the third day after the fire one of the boys became seriously ill and soon showed unmistakable signs of scarlet fever. A move from their lodging place was then imperative and the two families moved over to the school house on the north line of 27. There a couch was fixed up for the sick boy, the rest of the group sleeping on the benches until bedding could be procured and more comfortable arrangements made. In a few days Mr. Dykeman was taken sick and it was soon evident that he, too, had the dread disease. Then the county health officers stepped in and quarantined the school house and its occupants. A. S. Fordman was the only man about the place able to do anything and he was suffering from the effects of a carbuncle on his knee upon which an operation had been performed a few days before.

The cattle, among which were 28 milch cows, were at the home place on 17. Twice Mr. Fordham went over and milked the entire number, but the milk could not be sold, and must be poured out. Mr. Andrew Pflaum kindly volunteered to take the animals and care for them. Fordham now gave his entire attention to the sick ones in the school house. The needed groceries were obtained at Mr. Frick's store at Glen. To get the supplies needed Fordham would go to a spot near the store where he could be seen and wait until some one came to the door. He then made his wants known and retreated to a safe distance, when the articles wanted had been brought out and placed where he could get them, he would pick them up and go back to the school house. This continued day after day. The sick child began slowly to recover, but the sick man was evidently getting worse. Then the other little boy was taken ill. On the 15th of May Mr. Dykeman died. S. T. Leeds, H. A. Frick, John Pflaum, August Miers and Dr. Smith came for the body and laid it away in Pleasant Hill cemetery. The boys recovered and at length the quarantine was raised, the bedding and all articles used in the school house burned or fumigated, the building cleaned and the two old people stepped forth, destitute of all personal property, but rich in the consciousness that they had done their best. They still own the S half of 17, which is one of the many good

tracts in Logan township. The old veteran and his wife now live in Wessington Springs, in a house of their own which by hard work they have bought and built, little by little and paid for. The house on 17 was not rebuilt.

The east half of 18 has had numerous owners. One of them was Henry McElwain, now of Wessington Springs, who made substantial improvements. Then it passed into the hands of a man named Carlson, then Mahnke, then W. T. McConnell, who last spring sold it to Mr. Bayne. At the time of my visit Mr. Bayne was hard at work getting moved on to the place and settled.

The SE of 18, the SW of 17, the NW of 20 and the NE of 19 were all tree claims, making a square 640 acres of timber culture entries, but not a tree is in sight.

On the NW of 21, adjoining the school section A. P. Pflaum, son of Andrew Pflaum, has resided since 1904. This was the homestead of C. C. Meyer, who made proof for it. It was swept by the prairie fire that destroyed so much property in Logan, Crow and Pleasant townships on the 28th of April, 1899. A loan company foreclosed a mortgage that Meyers had given and which, at the time of foreclosure amounted to \$700. Mr. Pflaum purchased it from the company for \$400. Today it could not be bought for \$3200. A new house and barn, a good well, 90 acres in cultivation and excellent crops have placed the young man in comfortable circumstances. He was one of the boys that passed the night of January 12th, 1888, in Pleasant Hill school house with the other pupils of John Wicks' school. He has a vivid recollection of that storm.

On September 1st, 1906, Mr. Solomon Radke came up from Yankton county, S. D., and took possession of the S half of 8, which he had recently purchased of S. C. Scott, speculator, of Lyons, Iowa. The improvements are good, the buildings being located near the center of the section on the NW corner of the SE quarter. One hundred and forty acres are in cultivation, the balance is in pasture. In the early '80s the SE of this section was taken by W. J. Burnette as a pre-emption, and a man named Boyce took the SW quarter as a tree claim. Neither Burnette nor Boyce perfected their entries for the land they had taken in this section and later John Pfaff filed a homestead entry for the SE quarter and a pre-emption for the SW.

From Radke's farm I rode and led the wheel alternately in a northeasterly direction until I was again on the old trail from Waterbury to Kimball. I went north between sections 4 and 5, certainly a fine country. The approach down the hills from the south to Crow Creek bridge is no better than from the north. At one time, when the bridge was built this was one of the best traveled roads of the west part of the county. It was

the outlet for all that region to Kimball twenty-five miles south. But that was before the railroad came to Wessington Springs. Now the main course of travel is eastward and this old thoroughfare but dimly visible in the rank growth of grass. At the bridge I stopped a few minutes to catch a mess of fish and then climbing the hill north of the bridge I rode on to the old townsite of Waterbury again. I was hungry and the fish were fine.

One morning in the latter part of October, I was at the Waterbury P. O. and finding the wind favorable, determined to take a run down into Crow Lake township. I followed the star route that is traversed by Jehial—commonly known as “Hiley” Barnum every day in the year. Numerous small tin boxes, each decorated with the name of some farmer, were stationed along the way. On some of them the little tin “flag” was standing up to notify the carrier that some mail was there for him to take. About 20 families have boxes on this 10-mile route, where they receive and deliver their letters and papers each day.

When a great convenience is new people express their appreciation by saying, “thank you,” but when it gets old enough to be common they show their sense of the favor only by saying “—you” when a miss accrues. The veteran carrier, who travels this route has for 21 years been doing the work that Uncle Sam requires of his servants in this line of duty. Yet he is only one of those who day after day, summer and winter, in sunshine or in storm, have traveled the bare Dakota prairies since the postal stations were established here so long ago. Mr. Barnum, of Crow Lake, Howard Pope, now retired from the service, and Mr. Spayn, who for years has carried the Wessington Springs-Miller mail, have each gone over miles enough in their work for the government, to have encircled the globe a half dozen times, and all that in Jerauld and adjoining counties. Many other men attract far greater attention in positions more spectacular, and called more honorable, yet not one in ten thousand of them render such useful service to the public, or receive so little compensation or honorable mention as the faithful carriers who make life so much more pleasant in the prairie home.

On the NE of 1, in Logan township, Johanan H. Riegal, a splendid fellow, well known to all the early settlers of the southwest part of the county, settled in 1883. He remained until about 1900 and then sold out and went to Pennsylvania, but has not prospered by the change. The place is now owned by J. W. Goffin, who lives on the old C. S. Barber farm in Pleasant township.

Across the road east and I was on section 6 of Crow Lake township. Of the first settlers of this section B. F. Drown, on the NE; Robt. Heble on the SE; Joseph Gibisch on the SW and Frank Kaas on the NW, none

are there. The land is of excellent quality but they seemed to think they could do better elsewhere and sold for a trifle of what the land is now worth. Three quarters of this section, the S half and NW quarter, are now owned by H. B. and J. B. Reese, two brothers who have operated one of the best paying farms in the county during the past four years. In addition to the land above mentioned they have the west half of 5 in Crow Lake and a few quarters across the line in Pleasant, making two sections in all. Of this farm the SW of 5 was taken in June, 1882, by C. S. Jacobs, now of Wessington Springs, who came here from his birth place, Victor, Ontario county, N. Y. He returned to New York that summer, but the western fever had him and he has it yet. The next June he came back to the territory and filed a pre-emption on the NW of the same section. He built a house near the northwest corner of his pre-emption and began the life of a pioneer. In building the house on his pre-emption a few little articles dropped between the studding and were not noticed. This summer, in repairing the building Mr. Reese brought forth a Victor, (N. Y.) newspaper, dated March, 1884; a gold plated harness buckle and a stamping outfit. They were of interest only because of the length of time they had lain there. The house has been enlarged until it is now sufficiently commodious for the help required to push the work on so large a farm. Some idea of the work done by the present owners can be formed from the fact that when they took possession of the farm four years ago there were but 35 acres on the whole tract that had been in cultivation the previous year, and their first crop of small grain, all told, was but 390 bushels. This year they cultivated 450 acres of which 70 acres was planted to corn. This they were husking at the time of my visit and the quantity and quality were excellent. The crop of small grain this season, as it came from the machine, was 7000 bushels. Three hundred acres are in pasture, where 120 head of cattle have grazed during the summer. Half a hundred hogs would be ready for market in a short time. The place has that evidence of prosperity that makes it noticeable, even to a man on a wheel. H. B. Reese came here from Yankton county in 1904, while J. B. Reese was for some time the pastor of the Congregational church at Wessington Springs. It was during his pastorate that a church was established at Fauston, in Pleasant township, and also in Anina township.

The east half of section 5 was held by Joseph Gibisch and Thos. H. Null. The latter began life as a Dakota pioneer on the NE of this section. Reading law was more congenial, however, than farming. Among other things that he had for amusement and profit was a dozen hens that he purchased from a young couple that had become homesick and were going back to Michigan. A few days after getting the fowls, Null took

a dozen eggs and carried them to Waterbury. Henry Herring saw the eggs and inquired if they were fresh. Null replied, "very." Herring bought them and took them home. A few weeks afterward Herring again met Null in town and complained that the eggs were not good. He said he had set them under a hen but not one had hatched. Null replied, "I couldn't help it." Null soon after sold the land and entered upon his career as a lawyer. Since then all farming operations have been by proxy.

From the Reese farm I ran south, using the coaster brake most of the way until I reached the southwest corner of section 8. Here were two more mail boxes, one bearing the name of Thos. Paulson and Christ Sorenson, the other Christ Aistrup.

In making this run I had passed the S half of 7, taken by Robt. and Sam Hible when the rush of settlers came in 1883, giving them, with SE of 6, three as good quarters of land as the sun shines on. But like many others the Hibles never realized what a gold mine was lying among the grass roots, waiting for some one to turn it up and gather the treasure. The SE of 7 was Artel's tree claim, while the SW quarter was held by Anton Rendl.

Of the men who received section 8 from the government, not one remains in the county. Joseph Vanous had a pre-emption on the NE quarter and Matt Ruppert the same on the NW. The SW of 8 was Reeve's tree claim. This quarter is now owned by Mr. Fagerhaug, who came here three years ago from near Irene, in Yankton county and purchased the W half and the SE quarter of this section. The last mentioned quarter was a pre-emption claim held by John Klaker. Mr. Fagerhaug has evidently discovered the aforesaid gold mine and is working it to good advantage. He is not alone in the discovery, however, for all the new settlers in this neighborhood seem to have made the same find. It is being successfully worked by Mr. I. Moen, who came in last spring from Yankton county and began to open up a farm on the old D. R. Hughes quarter, the NW of 17. Across the road west from him Mr. Christ Sorenson, also from Yankton county, certainly knows how to mine the golden stream from the black soil. All this section of country is rolling prairie, fertile in the extreme. The new settlers are not of the "get-rich-quick" kind, but are going at work right on their new possessions.

Many of the newspapers of the old territorial days, 25 years ago, cautioned the settlers of that day that the most productive soil was from 8 to 10 inches below the surface. They were laughed at by some as "newspaper farmers" and their advice ignored. One farmer in Crow township took a few turns on the sod with a pulverizer, sowed some flax seed and harvested ten bushels to the acre. What was the sense of turning up ten

inches of dirt when such results could be obtained by just tickling the bosom of mother earth with a pulverizer without plowing at all? Until very recently it was a common thing for farmers to "burn off" the stubble and weeds of a preceding crop and on the ground so cleared "put in" the grain with a pulverizer and harrow. In fact I have known land to be "farmed" seven years in succession with but one plowing. One old farmer remarked that "people will some times get a crop here in spite of themselves."

But my wires must have got crossed, for I have been talking a long ways from the SW of 8—106—66. Near the southwest corner of this quarter a good substantial school house is located, well protected from prairie fires by a cultivated field. Arrangements have been made for a church and cemetery near the school house by the Lutheran denomination which has a society organized here. The lot will be surrounded by a woven wire fence, the material for which is already on the ground. Near the school house stands a horse stable for the use of those who ride to school. This school house is one of the few in the county that is kept locked.

At the corner by the school house I turned east and passed the old home of Wm. Shultz that joins the school section on the west. On the north side of 16 is section 9, where John Vanous, James Counsell and George Deindorfer held government land with the rest of the early settlers. Mr. Deindorfer took the E half of the E half of the section and another strip a mile long on the south side of section 10. One of these strips he took in June '82 and the other in the spring of 1883. In the spring of 1883 he was a candidate for the position of postmaster at White Lake, relying to a great extent upon his record as a veteran of the Civil war. His popularity was attested by a petition containing between 400 and 500 signatures, but politics controlled in those days and he was not sufficiently identified with the controlling faction. Mr. Deindorfer has sold his land and now lives in Wessington Springs. That part of his land which was in section 9 is now owned by Mr. B. Sailer, but is being rented by S. Sorenson.

At the northeast corner of the school section I turned south following the stage route toward Crow Lake. On my left was the home of R. Y. Hazard, established nearly 26 years ago, before the affairs of Jerauld county had begun to take definite shape. To him more than to any other man is due the good work done in establishing the school system of the county, for he was the man selected by the first board of county commissioners on the first day of their first session to get the schools started. So well and so conservatively was the work done that, though nearly all of the townships issued bonds, there is today but one township in the

county that has bonds outstanding and those are held by the state school fund. Mr. Hazard's land comprises the NE quarter and the N half of the NW quarter of the section. The S half of the NW quarter of this section was held by Anna Daum, the SW quarter by August Bachmore, while Chris Daum had the SE quarter as a tree claim.

South of the Bachmore quarter is the NW of 22, a quarter owned for several years by Joseph O'Brien, now of Wessington Springs. One of the first branding committees appointed by the first board of commissioners at the instance of the stockmen of the county, a member of the first school board of Crow Lake township, always possessed of a lively interest in politics, Mr. O'Brien is probably as well known as any man in the county.

Section 21, once held by James H. Baker, Albert Allyn, E. L. Sawyer and Fanny Heintz is now embraced in one farm owned by G. A. Gray of Coleridge, Neb. To section 21 Mr. Gray has added as a part of his farm the W half of 27, the E half of 28 and also the NE 40 acres of the SE of 28. This gives him a continuous body of land from the school section, 16, to the town of Crow Lake. A new house and barn have been built near the northeast corner of 21, and at the time of my trip a foundation had been built and lumber was being hauled for a new house in the old town. Of the land owned by Mr. Gray in 27, the S half of SW quarter was at one time owned by Dr. Melcher, the N half of the SW quarter and the SW of the NW quarter by A. M. Allyn, and the SE of the NW and the N half of the NW quarter by Frank Broz. That lying in section 28 was a part of A. M. Allyn's tree claim.

Approaching Crow Lake on this road, the country lying along the south shore comes into view first. A mile away is the grove on the Frank Spinler tree claim, probably the first piece of cultivated land in the township. Spinler didn't stay long. The old tree claim is now owned by Vaurin Dusek, who took the land on the opposite side of the lake in the fall of 1882 and has lived there ever since.

On top of the hill, northwest of the old town, I dismounted and stood beside the wheel a few moments to catch a glimpse of the quarter of a century that has gone speeding past.

Off across the valley is the old home of Dr. Melcher, now tenantless and surrounded by tall weeds. The farm upon which it stands is comparatively level and is one of the most fertile in the county. The road leading from the deserted house to the village is plainly visible, though used but little at present as compared with the days when Melcher, Allyn, McGlashan and Alward were trying to make the town one of the important points of the county. A walk over this level road, during the summer time was a daily event for the doctor, always accompanied by his

little daughter, Anina, for whom he named one of the townships of the county when he was a member of the first board of county commissioners.

The road, as traveled by Mr. Melcher and Anina, led from the farm house to McGlashan's store, where the post office was located, on the east side of the street. Occasionally he would stop at the store kept by Vessey Bros., on the west side of the street.

At the point on the hill where I first caught sight of the Melcher house the lake became also visible over a good part of the southwest corner. The lake covers 700 acres and at the time the early settlers came it was in places from ten to twelve feet in depth. They believed it never had been and never would be dry. When Mr. Peter Barrett, an older settler of the country, told Dr. Melcher that he had driven across the lake, and with a shovel had dug down two feet in hope of finding water for his team, but was disappointed, the doctor replied that "surely he must be mistaken in the lake."

A number of crafts of different styles floated on the lake in those days and boating was a pleasant and common pastime. The appearance of the body of water then was not the same as now. There were no rushes, and the tall grass that now almost hides the water over a large portion of it, did not mar the beauty of the lake. It was a broad sheet of clear sparkling water.

One warm, summer day, when old Crow Lake was a shimmer of liquid loveliness Dr. Melcher took his little daughter, then but two years old, for a boat ride. The doctor was not a most skillful boatman, and in some manner the little craft was upset. For a minute there was extreme danger. His eyesight was just verging on the blindness that soon after prevented his moving about without assistance, and it was more by the sense of feeling than seeing that he was enabled to rescue the little girl from the water. The lake where the accident occurred was about five feet deep, and the shore fully two hundred yards away. He held the child in his arms a few minutes until she had recovered from her fright and then placing her upon his shoulder he made his way towards the shore. He came out of the adventure safely, and it is doubtful if he was at any time as badly scared as were some of the neighbors who saw the accident from a distance.

Off to the right from the hill top on which I stood the old Mentzer ranch buildings were plainly visible. The buildings are on the south side of the valley of Smith Creek, the natural outlet of Crow Lake. This valley, before it was crossed by fences, afforded a fine course for racing, and was used for that purpose when the people from all over the country celebrated the Fourth of July at the lake in 1887. The racing that day was notable. Boys and girls came in with their ponies from herding cattle

and each one was confident his or her pony was the best. One of the ponies was ridden by Mary Detlef. From the top of the hill I could see the whole of the course over which they ran.

The ponies with their riders were ranged up side by side at the west end of the track, a half mile away. I have not been able to learn the names of all the riders. Among them was True Vessey, then a lad of 14 years, who was herding cattle for Jim Weddle.

It was a large and eager throng that gathered on the prairie south of Vessey's store to watch the outcome of the race. The starters could be seen trying to get the little horses in line for a fair start. How long it takes; one little fellow starts off and has to come back; then two or three start and are called back; both riders and ponies are anxious to get the advantage of a few feet in the start; all are off, but the starters shout and yell "whoa" and all must get back into line again, while the crowd down by the store "wonder what's the matter." Suddenly from the starters, far up the valley, the breathless throng hears the signal word, "go."

They are too far away to tell who has the best of the start, and half the track is covered before the race takes tangible shape to the waiting people, who are already beginning to yell. Then it is seen that Mary and True are in the lead. Nobody cares for those behind; all interest is centered in the two leaders. Three-fourths of the distance is covered and the boy is half a length ahead. Mary, riding in modern fashion, begins to urge her pony to greater effort, pounding his sides with her bare heels and calling him to go faster. True begins to apply his whip, and under the sting of the quirt his steed gains another half length. Mary has no whip. The goal is but ten rods ahead and the other pony is leading by a length. In desperation she clutches the sun bonnet from her head and using it for a whip seems to make her animal realize how much in earnest she is. His ears drop a little further back, his nose points a little further ahead, his body drops a little closer to the ground, and with a magnificent spurt he carries his little rider into the yelling, frantic throng and over the line a good half neck ahead. How the crowd yelled and jumped and hurrahed! Standing there on the hill it almost seemed I could hear the echoes from those happy celebrators of twenty years ago. Then came the tub races and the egg races, but at length I realize that the October air is getting chilly and so I get on the wheel and coast down to the old McGlashan store, now kept by his grandson, Harry Bogardus, where I obtain good lodging for the night. The balance of the celebration will be told next week.

The town of Crow Lake was platted at the southwest corner of the body of water after which it was named. Since the settlement of Crow Lake township there have been two lakes in the same hollow, the old and

the new. Old Crow Lake, the one that was there when the white people came, wholly disappeared in 1893 and nothing was left to show where it had been, but the hollow, the town and the name. The hollow was filled again in 1897, but it has never had the same clear, bright appearance that characterized the old lake.

It was to the bank of the lake near the town that the crowd gathered on the Fourth of July, 1887, to see the tub race. Ernest and Alex Vessey and another young man whose name I have not learned, were the contestants.

Three common wooden wash tubs were obtained from one of the stores and everything made ready for the race. Ernest Vessey, never a man of great size was still smaller, when he was young, and this proved of advantage to him in the contest. His two opponents, being too large to get into the tubs had to lie across them, while Ernest sat like a Turk on the bottom of his little circular craft.

The race began. Ernest's position made a ballast for his vessel that enabled him to keep it steady while he worked it through the water. As soon as the tubs were well started Ernest began splashing water in the faces and eyes of his opponents, at the same time pushing himself well to the front. His opponents could not retaliate without upsetting. Their only course was to get out of reach of the flying water, and while they were moving sideways Ernest was going straight toward the pole that marked the end of the race. The fun was great and so was the cheering when the little fellow won the prize.

Then came the egg race. The arrangement for this contest consisted of placing a dozen eggs ten feet apart in a line extending from a starting point. There being three contestants, three lines were formed. The runners were required to go out from the starting point and bring in the eggs, one at a time, and place them on the ground. To win was to bring in all the eggs first and have the fewest broken ones in the pile. Ernest and True Vessey and Chas. Detlef were in this race. It was mainly a matter of speed and dexterity. So close was the race that all three of the runners were going in with the last egg at the same time. The crowd had done a vast deal of yelling that day but they had yells enough left to wake the echoes from all the surrounding hills when Charley Detlef placed his last egg by the starting pole first, and was declared the winner.

Then came some foot races and other sports, the celebration closing with fireworks in the evening. It was a jolly day for every one, so much so, in fact, that it was repeated the next year.

I had come to Crow Lake to get the school and civil township records. Harry Bogardus, being the clerk for both organizations, I was enabled to examine the books without further traveling.

It was while searching these records for whatever might be of interest that I discovered the origin of the South Dakota Township Fireguard law. At the annual town meeting held on the first day of March, 1892, S. H. Melcher proposed this plan for Crow Lake township, in all respects the same is that imbraced in the Cleveland bill that passed the legislature the next winter. The plan was not adopted fully until the next year when a tax of ten mills was voted to carry it into effect. Having completed the examination of the records I spent a day looking about the old town and vicinity.

Changes in an old community are often interesting only because of their suggestions of previous conditions.

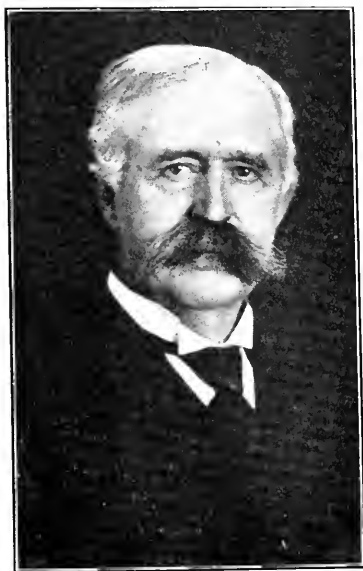
From 1893 to 1897 Crow Lake was as dry as the proverbial "powder house"—or rather the hollow where the old lake had been—and during those years a well traveled road ran east straight across the valley. I followed the old road from Bogardus' store to the bank of the lake and looking off across the water an open way through the grass and tall rushes was plainly visible, though water from two to ten feet in depth has covered the old road during the past twelve years.

This like the other old trails is fenced up, now, only one of the cross-country roads being still in use. There is nothing that more effectually impresses one with the thought that he and things about him are growing old, than the sight of an old road with a fence across it. This possibly had something to do with the old common law road by prescription. That fence cuts the old off from the new. Beyond it lies the great field of memory. It was this that caused Gault to write to his brother in the stanzas of that beautiful poem "Twenty Years Ago."

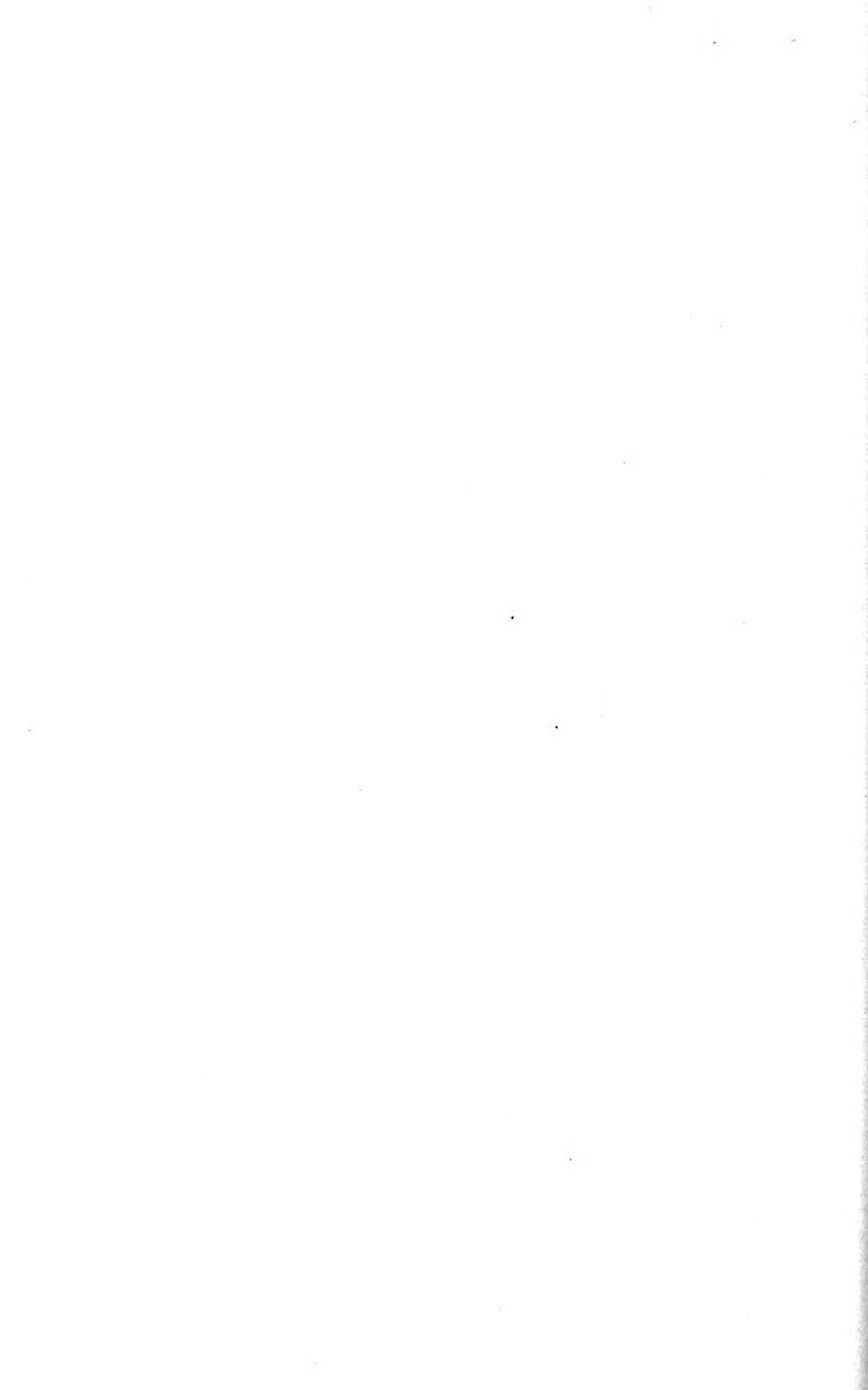
"I've wandered to the village, Tom,
 I've sat beneath the tree,
 Upon the school house play ground, Tom,
 That sheltered you and me.
 But none were left to greet me, Tom,
 And few were left to know,
 Who played with us upon the green,
 Just twenty years ago."

Many other changes, besides the old roads have occurred. The house once occupied by Jack Vessey, the resident partner of the firm of Vessey & Albert, has been moved to the Anton Reindl farm on section 20. The old store is now a sheep barn; the building that was once the office of the Crow Lake "Homesteader" and the residence of its editor, Mr. Pooley, is now some where in Buffalo county; the school house that stood on the west side of the street has been moved to the northeast corner of

the township; the frame building with its sod addition, at one time the village restaurant, is now a stable, but minus the sod addition. I spent the night with Mr. Barnum, the mail carrier, in the house built by A. M. Allyn, the first settler in the town, and where Mrs. W. R. Annis, now of Viola township, taught the first school in the old village. The old blacksmith shop of Fred Wood was moved to Wessington Springs. The old store building and residence of J. T. McGlashan is still where he built it, has just received a new coat of paint and contains a stock of goods that proves a great convenience to the people who go there for their mail and groceries.



N. J. DUNHAM,
The Author.



APPENDIX.

The following articles belong in this volume, though not history in the strict sense of the term. The first—"The Evening Glow"—is a beautifully told story of early life in Wessington Spring, the characters in which will be readily recognized by all old settlers. The author, Mrs. Maude Campbell Cotton, of Lake Bluff, Chicago, is a daughter of Rev. J. G. Campbell, for many years a resident of Jerauld county.

The last article is an attempt to trace one of the old roads that led from the town to the seminary and on, northwest, into the country, in the old days, before the railroad came to Wessington Springs.

THE EVENING GLOW.

Maude Campbell Cotton.

The County Commissioners had a problem before them—what was to be done with Granny Smith. Uncle Jimmie Smith had been suddenly released from his hard and unequal struggle with the world, and was having the first quiet rest of the whole seventy years of his life, so poor old Granny was left entirely alone, with no one of kin nearer than her old home in England.

Some strange fate had tempted these two childless and friendless old people some ten years before to come to the new country of South Dakota, where "land was to be had for the taking and all the dreams of a care-free existence realized." It had been a hard struggle all along—there had been crop failures, misfortunes with the stock, the cattle and horses which had not succumbed to the rigors of the new climate and the insufficient food, had been taken to satisfy mortgages, so that Uncle Jimmie's widow found herself with a partially cultivated quarter-section of land, two horses, four cows, a few chickens, and various pieces of machinery needed in carrying on the work of the farm. Plainly enough she could not care for herself—there was no one to care for her. This new

county in a new state had nothing in the nature of poorhouse—beside, she was not a pauper, but the owner of a farm, and its equipment, however meager.

Accordingly the suggestion had been made to the county authorities that her farm be turned over to them under condition that she be cared for during her lifetime. After much discussion and many trying visits from the old lady, the decision was made to accept the bequest, and work was immediately begun upon a suitable dwelling within the borders of the town of Walsington Falls, the county seat. One room, 12x14 feet, comprised the house, but what a paradise it seemed to Granny. She could scarcely be called prepossessing, yet the little old face, crisscrossed by many wrinkles, the faded blue eyes, with no trace of softening brow or lash, seemed to grow youthful as she watched over the building of this new home. Here for the first time in her life she was to experience the joy and freedom of being mistress of a home. Jimmie had been master and mistress both all these years, and while she had grown well accustomed to that state of affairs, there was considerable excitement over the new era.

Now, also, for the first time in her life she was allowed to handle money—actually to make purchases upon her own responsibility. A small sum was allowed her each month for her living, and while at first the joy of possession with privilege of spending, involved her in difficulties—even in financial embarrassment—yet what could one expect of a child of sixty-eight, with those years of repression behind her.

The tiny home was soon arranged—bed in one corner, table, holding her Bible and one or two other books, beside it, with the two rocking chairs disposed at the foot, beside the south window,—this end was parlor and bed room. The stove—a range—occupied the middle of the room, giving heat to the parlor, and furnishing opportunity for the necessary work of the kitchen, which was in the opposite end of the room. The dining table, with its lonely chair, stood beside the north window, on the line between the divisions, and through windows and door to east, south and west streamed the warm prairie sun and the fresh prairie breeze.

The new situation brought many pleasures and undreamed of privileges to the little old lady, but her chief delight soon grew to be “going to church.” The little home was near church and parsonage, and the sound of the bells always found her ready, and her seat the first one filled. The minister, however stormy the day, was always sure of one good listener, and soon grew to depend upon that wrinkled, upturned face, puckered with anxiety as she tried to follow him wherever he wandered. Unconsciously, in his effort to make his message clear and simple for this untutored soul, he grew into greater strength, and his people remarked

upon a steady improvement, little dreaming that it came about through the presence of the little black figure, well to the front of the room, and always there.

She, in turn grew to feel the importance of her position and to assume a responsibility in the direction of the church affairs to an unwonted degree. At one of the minor meetings in the absence of the pastor, she had even pronounced the benediction, but after a quiet explanation from the preacher, she had not again attempted that, confining herself to matters more closely within her sphere.

She had many years to make up—Uncle Jimmie had never approved of church going.

"What's the use a-wastin' time that away," he would growl, "horses that 'ave been worked 'ard h'all the week shoudn't ort to be druv on Sunday—h'anyow don't see what you want to go fur.—Notice the folks that's so hanxious to go to church 're no better 'n them 'at stay at 'ome. Didn't h'old Bill Lawson, who was allus going to church, sell me seed flax as was more'n 'alf mustard, chargin' me fur the best flax?"

All these things were forgotten now, however, and Granny often sighed and wished "poor Jimmie" could have been with her to enjoy the church meetings.

Next to church going she most delighted in visiting—spending the day with her new acquaintances of the town or country near by. Her ten years residence within a few miles of the town had not made for her as many friends as the first year in her new home. She believed, without having heard it said, that she who would have friends, must show herself friendly, and so much of her time was spent in "visitations."

One bright, brisk morning in December, while the most of the town folks were still leisurely breakfasting, the quaint little figure in black shawl and hood started for a long day at the home of Mrs. Douglas. It was a hard walk—two miles over frozen country roads, with no chance of a ride, for all the teams were bound for the village. It was a breathless old lady with red cheeks and blurred eyes who surprised Mrs. Douglass as she was skimming the milk for the calves' breakfast.

"Goodness, Grandma Smith, how you stratled me. You must be frozen after that long walk against the cold wind. Come in and sit by the fire—put your feet right in the oven and get them warm, while I make you a cup of tea," said Mrs. Douglass, as she bustled about helping remove the old lady's wraps, getting a newspaper to shield her face from the too ardent fire, and bringing out tea pot and caddy.

"You came just in time—yesterday I made a big batch of doughnuts, and I guess they're good the way they have been disappearing."

Grannie's face fairly beamed as she thawed under the influence of warm kitchen, hospitable greeting and the refreshing tea.

"You're right 'arly this mornin', Mis Douglass,—thought sure h'Id be down 'fore breakfast dishes wus washed. Anything special h'on to-day, you're so smart?"

"O, we're early birds down here, grandma, and today Malcolm is going up north for seed corn, so he wanted to be off in good season. You know how short the days are."

Good Mrs. Douglass said nothing of her plan to accompany Malcolm and visit a distant neighbor on the way. She was accustomed to Granny's unexpected appearances.

"I declare," she had said to a friend whom Granny was also fond of visiting, "sometimes when the day's plans are so upset I feel like telling her she must send me word before coming, but that face—so unconscious that there can be anything more important than her entertainment—closes my lips; I cannot bear to see the joy die out. Think how few her pleasures are at best."

So not a hint of frustrated plans appeared in her cordial manner, and when Malcolm rushed in with the cry, "All ready soon's I hitch up," on his lips her warning glance and shake of the head told him his journey must be made without her.

Malcolm was a prime favorite, and his gay greeting, "Hello, grandma, where'd you get those dandy red cheeks? The girls don't stand any show when you're around," met with broad smiles and a "Just 'ear that now. Don't 'e love to flatter the h'old ladies though?"

"No sir! I never flatter. You know, grandma," sitting down close beside her, "I always thought," but the rest of the sentence was finished in her ear and lost to all others. The effect was overpowering, for she laughed until she coughed and choked and wound up in a wild gale of cackles and gurgles.

"Go on now," she gasped, with tears streaming down her face, as Malcolm, seizing a doughnut in each hand, kissed his mother goodbye and was off with a parting wave to her. "Aint 'e the greatest—allus 'as the gay word for h'everybody—sech a pranker."

Then, and her eyes took on a faraway look, she said, "You know, Mis Douglass, that dear boy do make me think o' my poor dear Jimmie more and more h'every time I see 'im."

Mrs. Douglass looked amused, for Uncle Jimmie, the gruff, surly old man, wasting few words, pleasant or otherwise on anyone, seemed endlessly remote from her bright-faced boy, whose cheery presence and quick wit brightened not only the home but the whole neighborhood.

"Yes," granny went on reflectively, "e cerinly do make me think o' Jimmie in 'is talk and hactions. Yes, hand in 'is looks too—that red 'air do remind me of Jimmie's ginger whiskers."

Mrs. Douglass laughed heartily. "Well Malcolm's hair is inclined to be gingery, and he is certainly the spice of our family. We will miss him sadly when he is off to school next month."

"Poor granny, how quickly all remembrance of disappointment and hardship has vanished," thought Mrs. Douglass, "she is enjoying Uncle Jimmie more in his death than she ever did in his life."

It was true,—the great alchemist Time had cast a pleasing glow over the past, eliminating all the gloom and shadows. To his widow now Jimmie Smith had grown into the likeness of all one could desire, and Malcolm's attractive face and manner personified to her all that she would ask for her husband.

Mrs. Douglas broke into her reverie by saying, "Now, grandma, shall we go into the other room and get to work? I have a comforter on the frames and while we visit I will try to tie it off. Yes, you may help if you wish, if it is not too hard for you."

A big base burner made this room comfortable. The bright sunlight flooded it through the south windows, and added almost a feeling of summer, which could only be dissipated by a glance at the wintry landscape outside. An organ brought from the east stood in one corner, near it a bookcase, fashioned by Mrs. Douglass' own clever hands, and filled with well selected works. A roomy table, holding the big lamp, was well littered with books and magazines. Neighbors said, "Those Douglasses will never be rich. Look at the money they spend for books and papers. Why their magazines must cost them \$10 a year. Think of getting a different magazine for each of them six children. It's reckless waste."

Grandma seized upon some of the recent publications—Mrs. Douglass noticed she selected those belonging to the younger children—and looked through the pictures, but talk was more to her taste, and soon needles were threaded and she prepared to do her share of both talk and work. Mrs. Douglass was a safe companion. Under her kindly thought and suggestion, harsh criticism and unneighborly gossip were changed into harmless and friendly feeling.

"Well, Mis Douglass, did you 'ear 'ow cut up Mis Jack Thompson was when she got to church last Sunday mornin', a leeble late o' course, and found that Mattie Garraway up playin' the organ in her place? You know Mis Thompson thinks that Mattie's tryin' to git in as organist, and all them Garraways are jest pushin' her for'd."

"Why no, grandma, that's a mistake. Mrs. Thompson is a very busy woman and with all her family cares it is not strange she should occa-

sionally be late to church, and I know she is glad to have Mattie there to take her place when she is detained. It is so kind of her to give her talent freely and we should appreciate it."

"Well now, mebbe that's so, 'course I don't know nothin' about it, but that's the way it was handled to me," said granny, her mind easily diverted and ready to think good will to men, if somebody would only suggest it to her."

"Didn't you think Brother Norvell preached a powerful sermon week ago on the mistakes o' Cain? I tell you I couldn't help a thinkin' o' Mr. Miller and the spite he holds agin that good Mr. Grayson. You know for a long time 'e wouldn't come to church at h'all, 'e was so mad. 'I went right hup to im after meetin' and said 'h'I tell you that ort to be a strong example to h'us these days, sez I, not to hate our brotherin, but before h'I could say h'anything more 'e jest grunted and walked h'away. H'I tell ye Mis Douglass, that man's powerful sot, and if 'e haint watchin' i's steps e'll fall in the mud," finished granny with a pious look.

"Well, we must remember that Mr. Miller has not had the advantages of some and while he is very decided in his opinions and does not easily forgive, yet he is a kind neighbor and thoughtful of those less fortunate than himself."

"That's so," agreed granny again, reminded of his many visits to her door with vegetables from his well stocked pit, a chicken or a fresh piece of meat, "H'I allus did say that man 'ad a good 'art in 'is stummick. There's something good about h'anyone as has a warm thought for the widders and fatherless."

The day wore pleasantly away, granny enjoying to the utmost the atmosphere of the well ordered home.

"My land, Mis Douglass, h'I must be gittin' 'ome. Time h'I git my water and coal for the night, 'twill be supper time, tho I dunno 's I'll need much arter that 'earty dinner I et. But h'I'll 'ave a cup o' tea and get somethin' for Moses."

"Who's Moses? Well now you knew I named that cat Moses, didn't ye? Didn't h'll tell ye 'bout findin' 'im down in the Big Gulch sort o' caught in an old basket right in the runway? His yowls was gettin' feeble an' guess 'e begun to give up 'ope. I wonder I never told you about that. Anyhow, cause o' findin' h'im that way I called 'im Moses, and 'es as much comfort to me as h'ever the real Moses was to old Pharaoh way down in Egypt. 'E'll be at the door waitin' for me when i git 'ome," continued the old lady as she fastened the thick black shawl about her.

"Here, grandma, is something I've been intending for you and I think it will be a comfort during the cold trip home. I noticed your face was not well protected this morning and this thick veil you will find very

warm." So saying Mrs. Douglas proceeded to wrap the veil about granny's head.

"Jest wait a minit, Mis Douglas, 'fore you tie that, there's something I want to speak about. You know they've decided to have another tree Christmas eve in the church like they did last year. Now if you really want to give that veil to me, and I certainly would be hawful thankful for it, would you mind 'angin' it hon the Christmas tree instid?"

Then as Mrs. Douglas did not immediately reply, she went on: "You know every year it seems all the folks gits somethink on that tree but me, and its right lonesome settin' there jest lookin' on. I had some thought o' makin' up somethink and 'angin' a little parcel h'on fer myself. Of course no one wuld a knowed I done it, but seein' 's your givin' me this so near Christmas I reely would enjoy it a heap more if it came on the tree."

Mrs. Douglass showed no amusement at the odd request and assured granny that she could quite understand the feeling, but insisted upon her wearing the veil home.

The sudden appearance of Mr. Douglas with the announcement that he found it necessary to go to town and granny could ride, cut short the conversation and nothing more was said about the Christmas tree.

"Poor old grandma. The Christmas joy is for the children, and what is she but a child. Her life really began when she came to town to live, so she is pretty young still, and there are few of us who would think her existence held much to be happy over. I wonder I never before thought she might better enjoy her Christmas things if they came by way of Santa Claus and the tree," mused Mrs. Douglass as she went about preparations for the supper and made everything cozy for the home coming of the children from school. Her warm heart could understand and sympathize with the longing of children of whatever age, and between that time and Christmas she made several quiet suggestions to her friends.

The great night came at last and the church was crowded with people of all ages. Every seat was taken, all standing room filled. Even the high window sills each held two venturesome boys who could not under ordinary circumstances have kept still enough to sit on such uncertain perches. In her usual Sunday seat, second from the front, sat Grandma Smith among the children. Christmas songs were lustily sung, Christmas recitations given. From the tiniest member of the primary class who lisped, "The Bells of Christmas Ring," and then too much overcome to finish his couplet ran to hide his face in his mother's lap, to the almost young lady, who read of the Star and the Shepherds from Ben Hur, all ranks of the Sunday school were represented. But the crowning joy came with sudden and dramatic entry of Santa Claus from the cunningly

devised fire place and chimney, who, after a bright speech of greeting proceeded to distribute the gifts about the tree and in his pack.

Granny's face was as eager as any about her, and she had quite forgotten the disappointment of past years when Santa Claus in loud tones announced "Grandma Smith," holding high a large white parcel. Then a moment later another, this time a tiny one. The old lady's surprise and delight were touching. At each call she would rise and bow her thanks to the princely benefactor, greeting the bearer of the gift with outstretched arms. By the time the tree was stripped she was almost hidden beneath her gifts and so overcome she could only sit quietly with tears running down her withered cheeks.

The young men, headed by Malcolm, escorted her and her treasures home, and after giving three cheers for "Grandma Smith, the most popular girl in town," left her table piled high to spend the rest of the night opening and enjoying her parcels. Even Moses was not forgotten, for one little packet bearing the inscription, "For Moses,—Merry Christmas," proved to be a beautiful red bow for his neck.

The next Sunday as soon as the sermon was ended Grandma rose in her place and said "I hask your pardon, Brother Norvell, for gittin' up now, but if I don't tell these folks my thanks I can't stand it. Nothink I can ever say will let you know what my feelins 'as been sence Christmas eve. I know now 'ow the Prodigal Son felt when 'e came 'ome, and I jest wish I 'ad a fatted calf to give h'every one o' ye. God bless ye."

The joy of the Christmas time remained a never failing delight as the days went by, and everyone she met must needs hear of the comfort and pleasure she had enjoyed. Different ones, however, noticed as time went on, and the bracing cold winds yielded to the milder breath of spring that grandma was not as active—seemed content to be dreamily at home with the faded blue eyes fixed upon the waving grass growing green upon the hillside. To all inquiries, however, she returned the same answer: "Never was sick in my life—don't know why I should be now. Jest a leetle tired 's all, or else I've got spring fever."

One Sunday evening she was not in her accustomed seat at the service the first time she had missed in her four years of town life, and Mrs. Douglass went to learn if she was sick.

"No, not a mite sick, Mis Douglass, jest a bit tired, and somehow tonight when the bell rang it said, 'set and rest, set and rest,' instid of 'come to church, come to church,' as it allus 'as afore. Ben thinkin' a 'eap o' poor dear Jimmie tonight. You know I believe that poor man used to git hawful tired with 'is work, but 'e never said nothink about it. I've worried some about 'im sence I've ben a livin' here, the way 'e used to go on about things, never went to church nor took no intrust, but

settin' here tonight it come to me that it's all right. Poor Jimmie never 'ad no chance at h'anythink but 'ard work sence 'e was born, never had anybody to look arter him till 'e got me, and praps I want much 'elp. I was jest a wishin' 'e could ha ben 'ere to 'ave enjoyed this Christmas with me. I know there never was a Christmas like it afore."

"No, there haint nothink you can do fer me. I haint sick—jest a leetle tired. I'll be all right in the mornin'. Good night, Miss Douglas, I'm comin' down one of these days for a good visit."

The next morning the neighbors, noticing an unusual quiet about the little home, went in—the door was never locked. Granny was lying quietly, still resting, with a smile of great content upon her old worn face.

They carried her to her beloved church, in accordance with her oft expressed wish and the minister spoke simply, telling of the inspiration her faithfulness had been to him, drawing lessons of courage and helpfulness from the simple, homely life for all his people. "These closing years," he said, "have been like the golden glow of the sunset, breaking through the clouds after a gloomy day, casting its softening reflection over the day that is past and forecasting the glory to come."

A REVERIE

In Which a Burgomaster is Shown Some of the Old Ways of Wessington Springs.

Twelve o'clock—midnight, and all was well. The street presented the appearance of a city in the night watches when the police are asleep. The last tired laborer had gone to his couch and to the refreshing slumber earned by honest toil.

The full moon from behind great banks of fleecy clouds was flooding the earth with a faint light that slightly relieved the darkness of the hour. Large objects were dimly visible a few feet away.

Insomnia, superinduced by heat and the manifold cares of city government, caused the burgomaster to leave his bed and wander forth upon the deserted streets. The air was still, and listen as he might, not a sound could his overwrought nerves distinguish; yet there was vibration, noise, sound, something like the moaning of the forest, or the sullen indistinguishable roar of the ocean in calm. B. was feeling, rather than hearing, the great speechless voice of the prairie—the never-still noise of silence.

A half hour the B. stood, resting his hand against the liberty pole that stands, and has stood for years, in the center of the square at the crossing

of the main streets of the town. His head was bent, his gaze fixed upon the ground at his feet. He was absorbed in thought of the many cares laid upon him.

Suddenly B. felt, rather than heard, that someone was approaching. He raised his head and looked about. From the direction of the Willard Hotel a man was approaching, distinguishable through the darkness by his long beard and flowing locks, both of which were snowy white. The stranger made no sound as he came along the street. He advanced with rapid steps straight to the waiting magistrate and when almost within reach of arm, came to a sudden halt.

"Who are you?" said the alderman, in wonder at the appearance of the stranger.

"Don't know me, eh? Forgotten me so quick, have you? Well, sir, I at one time knew you very well, and you knew me very well, too. I was once the best friend you had, but so is the way of the world. A good friend is forgotten so soon as he is powerless to help."

"But, really, I do not recall you; your appearance must have changed greatly. Tell me, who are you, I would not appear ungrateful."

"Don't worry, Mr. Alderman, I am one of a very large family, and but few of us are remembered, except by an individual, now and then. We are hailed with joy and bell ringing when we come, but the bells peal just as loudly at our funerals, for another member of the family is always at hand to try what he can do for men."

"But who are you?" repeated the burgomaster, "from your aged appearance you must be tired and in need of rest. Why did you not stop at the hotel yonder? Where are you going? Why are you out at this hour?"

"I might put the same question to you, for it is the time when you and your family are wont to take their rest. But as for me and my family, no one of them ever yet was tired, though they have been numbered by thousands. They never sleep and never rest. I have come to look over the place where I lived and to see what my brothers have done for the people, every one of whom I knew so well. Will you pilot me about the place? I see many changes have occurred since I left. I came in on the old stage road that George Pratt traveled when he carried the mail for Bert Orr from Plankinton to Huron. Bert Orr had a livery stable here, you know, and Pratt rode in an open buggy summer and winter, carrying an umbrella over him to keep off the sun in hot weather, and in front of him to keep off the wind when it was cold. I think there are some here yet, who rode with him in that old buggy."

"Where is your team and vehicle?" asked the magistrate, still peering in the darkness at his singular companion."

"Didn't have any," said the stranger. "Makes too much noise. To carry me they take Time, and go too slow."

"Do you tell me you came on foot and are not tired."

"No matter how I came," said the mysterious stranger. "I got here on the old stage road; I came through the Bateman gulch, that is what we used to call it before the Chicago preacher got hold of it. I climbed over or crawled through wire fences that now cross the road, till I got up on the hill. I find that the cemetery has spread out and increased in population, as well as the town. It is but a few rods east of the old road, so I went over there to look about a bit. It's a sightly spot and could be made very beautiful but will never be attractive. A few houses about forty rods west of the road have been built since I was here. Then I followed along this way till I came to a woven wire fence. I climbed that a couple of times and finally bumped up against the southwest corner of a lumber yard that has the name of Fullerton painted on the long building which forms part of the inclosure. Then I went to the hotel built by Mrs. Spears and Jesse, away back there in the '80s. I saw a nice thrifty bush of yellow roses growing on the south side of the hotel. I remember when the good woman put the little sprout there and gave it the name of the great president of the W. C. T. U. Mrs. Spears always called it the Willard rose. I wonder how many of your people remember the bush and its name, though I warrant you all admire it and its blossoms at the return of each June time. But I want to visit the Barrett gulch, where Uncle Peter and Aunt Sarah kept the Elmer postoffice, before the town was large enough to claim an office and change its name.

"But you will not think of going on tonight; you cannot find the way."

"Ha! ha!" laughed the stranger; "don't worry, but go with me and I will show you that I can follow the old trail in a night darker than this."

"But its all changed and fenced, and buildings erected in the old way," exclaimed the alderman.

"Never mind about that," said the strange old man, as he clutched his long bony fingers about the Squire's arm and urged him on.

Starting from the liberty pole, the stranger, with wonderful strength for one so old, hurried the alderman west, down Main street a few yards, remarking that the hill was not as steep as when he lived in W., then turned to the right.

"They didn't have any stones in the street when I lived here," said the old man, as he stumbled on to the cement sidewalk. "But what's this?" he exclaimed, as he ran against a building. "I am in the road, sure. Has some one put a building in the road? 'Tisn't the post office? No.

that stands right where Uncle Peter built it when he came down town."

"This is Frick's drug store," said the burgomaster.

"Built right in the road," said the old man; "why don't you make him move it?"

"We moved the road."

"That ye couldn't do. You might have laid out a new one, but the old one can't be moved. That's why I know I can follow it. Come on, we'll go round the house and get in the road beyond it. Now, turn to the left," he said, as they got to the northeast corner of the drug store, "and we'll find the road again. Thunder!" he exclaimed, as he and the magistrate plumped together down against another building. "What they got here?"

"Pfaff's bowling alley," said the squire.

"It's in the road and we've a right to step on it," said the old man, testily. "Come on, what next? Is the bridge gone?" he asked, as he plunged into the creek, dragging the burgomaster after him.

"People don't cross the creek here any more," said the alderman, as he lifted his muddy boots and stood beside the old man.

"Moved it, I suppose. Why don't they put their buildings by the side of the road, as they did in Boston, instead of making a new way every time a man wants to build a house. Now what?" the stranger inquired, as they came to the corner of a good sized structure.

"Bushnell's electric light plant," replied the squire.

"Well, I rum! Took pains to put everything in the road, didn't they. I remember that Alf Thompson put up a barn just beyond here, once, and put the corner of it in the usual traveled road. He made a bath house, too, but he had the good sense to put that on the east side of the creek behind the barn. He made the bath house of stone, but it fell down, flat as the walls of Jericho. Frank Whitney bought the barn, and also a house that Wm. Bremner had built on the west side of the highway. They haven't been moved out into the road, have they? No? Well they seem to have been the only people who had any regard for the rights of the traveling public. But, now, look there!" exclaimed the old man, when they had gained the top of the creek bank, "if Whitney's haven't run the corner of their fence across the old wagon track.

"But, wait a minute," he said, "I want to tell you of a funny thing that once happened in that barn back there. A couple of young ladies went into the barn, looking for eggs, I guess, and after looking about the barn floor they dropped through a small hole in the floor down into the basement. After they got done hunting they tried to go out at the east end, but found that the basement door was fastened on the outside, and no way to open it. One of the ladies was smaller than the other and got back up through the hole in the floor without much trouble; but the largest

girl fitted the place pretty snug and it took the combined efforts of both of them, pulling, wiggling, lifting and puffing to get her up on the barn floor again. Then, with a look of blank amazement on her face the smaller one said, "Why didn't I think to go down outside and open the basement door and let you out that way."

Then, not stopping to laugh, the old man hurried the squire around the corner of the fence and diagonally across the street. "Another barn right across the track. Whose is this? O, yes! this belongs with the pretty house that Alf Thompson built. Who lives here now?"

"Thomas Mead."

"And who lives in that house to the right, there. You see the old way runs between these houses."

"That house is where Miss Alice Moulton lives. It was built by Z. S. Moulton," replied the alderman.

"Stop a minute," said the old man; "do you see that house over there, on the corner, to the left, across this newfangled street of yours? Who lives there?"

"Mrs. R. M. McNeil."

"Well," said the stranger, "that house was brought over the hills from near old 'Tumbledown'—Templeton, they called it until the walls caved in. It was moved over by a young lawyer named Ed. Nordyke. He came along with it all right until he got part way down the hill up yonder, when one wagon broke and the building remained up there quite a while. The owner was unable to get it up or down. He finally gave Alf Thompson \$25 to bring it down off the hill to where it now stands. But we must hurry on or we won't reach the gulch tonight."

With an accuracy that seemed almost instinctive, the old man led the way across Fourth street until he arrived in front of a fine looking residence. "Well," he said, "this man has been considerate, anyway. He has put a gate in the road. I don't like to go through the house at this time of night, so we'll go around and take the road beyond. Whose place is this?" said the stranger when they had reached the alley fence.

"Lewis Jacobs'."

"Why, yes, I remember him, a good chunk of a boy when I lived here. And this next place was built by Dave Moulton, who had gumption enough to put his buildings beside the road and not in it. Got to climb another fence, I see," as they arrived a few feet east of the northwest corner of the yard. "What's that over there to the right," the stranger inquired as they got into the street again.

"That's the Congregational church and parsonage," said the alderman, trying to keep along with the old man who hurried across the street.

Didn't put that in the road, for a wonder; but I expect they've run a fence across it. Yes, sure,"—

The old man had vanished. His disappearance was followed by a splash of water and the alderman heard him crying out, "Say, Mr. Burgomaster, give me a hand, please. I'm in it, whatever it is. What do you call it, anyway?"

"It's a ditch for the water main. There is more than a mile of it open in the town. I cautioned you against going on in the dark."

"But I didn't look for things of that kind in the road," replied the old fellow as he shook the water from his garments. "What ye have water in it for?"

"They tapped a spring near here."

"Well, I heard the folks talk of water works when I lived here long ago, but I didn't think it would ever come. I didn't think they would ever get further than a "comical" engine.

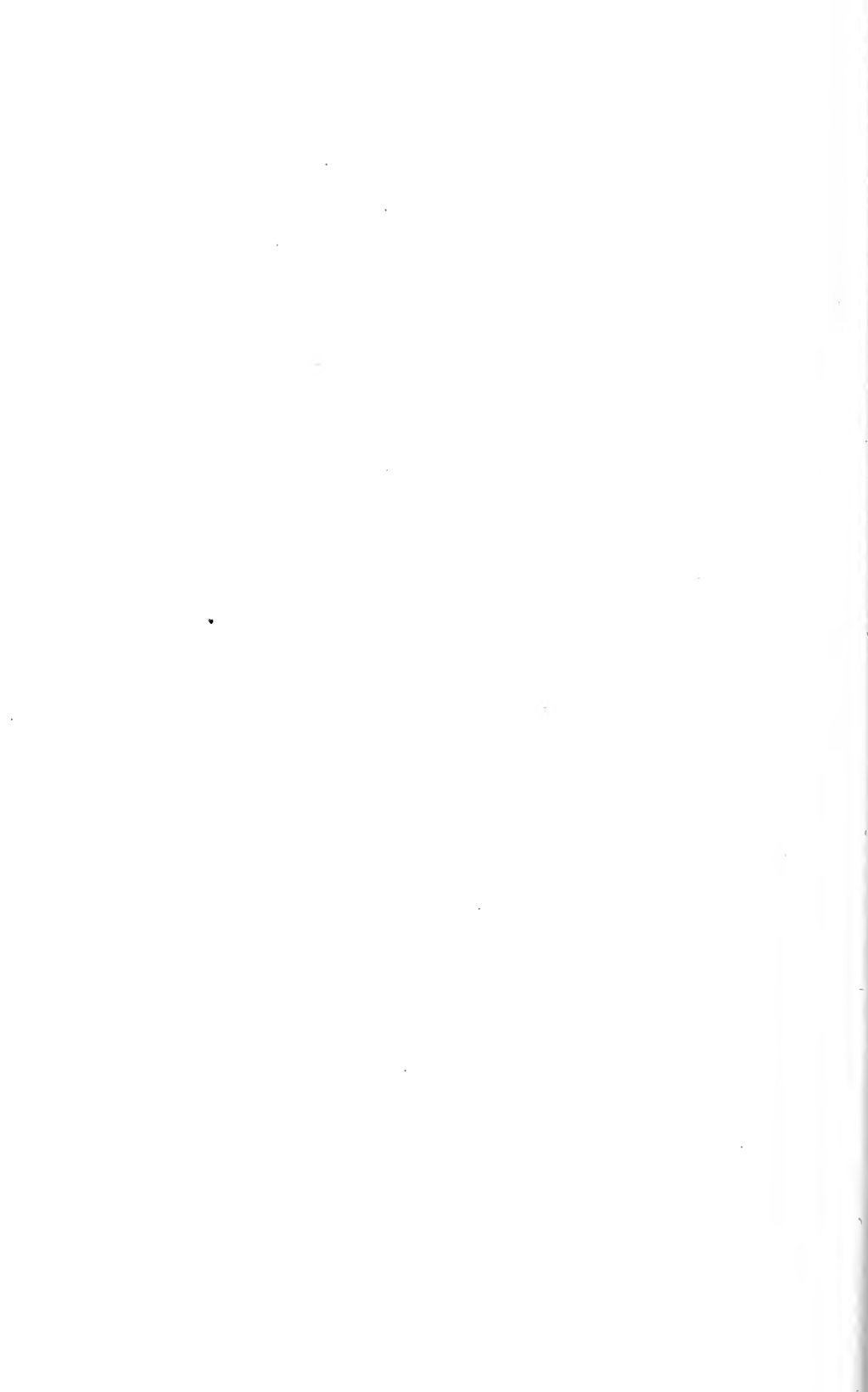
They passed the ditch and entered the parsonage grounds. "What's this, now," said the stranger, as he stopped to examine something in the track. I declare if it isn't a bunch of flowers growing right in the old road."

They got into the street again and the old man led the way straight north for quite a distance. Suddenly he stopped and again grasped the squire by the arm. "The Seminary!" he exclaimed. "Where is it?" The alderman told the story of the disaster, and the plans for a larger and better building, the walls of which were already going up.

"Look here, burgomaster. You may go on with your new town, made by new people, and built on new plans. You may erase every old land mark, and build new and costly edifices in place of the old, but you can never get into Wessington Springs a people of more sterling worth and higher enterprise than the men and women, boys and girls who for fifteen years traveled, summer and winter, over the old road we have followed tonight, to get knowledge at the feet of J. K. Freeland and his successors; to listen to the words of wisdom from the great intellects that were brought here, Joseph Cook, Littell, Sanford, Copeland, Hoar, and a hundred others; to attend the commencement exercises that sent many young men and women forth into the world to make it better because of what those few hardy pioneers struggled for and accomplished. I lived among these people and I knew them. You may gather more of wealth and far more of modern improvements, for they were a simple, unpretentious folk, but you will never gather a population with higher ideals of the duties of citizenship than those who, though few in number, sustained the old town.

The old road you and I have followed tonight, should be emblazoned with bright monuments, for it was the road the old town traveled to fame, honor and greatness. This institution will rise higher and continue in growth and influence, but you must never forget that its foundations, laid deep in honor, virtue and sobriety, were planted by the people of another era. I have seen enough. I am content. I am one of the years of time. My number was 1890. Good-bye."





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